Kuwait Presses Iraq for Information on the Missing

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait pressed Iraq on Wednesday for information about more than 600 people missing since the Iraqi occupation and welcomed Baghdad's announcement to step up the search.

Kuwaiti and Iraqi delegates who meet every month on alternate sides of the border gathered on the Kuwaiti side, said a spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which sponsors the talks.

(Contd on Pg. 10)



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Gorbachev: Ailing Yeltsin Should Resign

MOSCOW — Mikhail Gorbachev, the last president of the Soviet Union, called on Russian leader Boris Yeltsin to resign in a radio interview on Wednesday.

"The way things are going, the President (Yeltsin) must resign," Gorbachev told Ekho Moskvy radio station. "Boris Yeltsin's (current) illness is not the first time. Over the last year the president has not worked for many months."

(Reuter)

Iranian Foreign Minister Signs CTBT



UNITED NATIONS, New York, (Sept. 24): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (R) signs the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty at the United Nations. At L is the Islamic Republic of Iran permanent UN representative, Kamal Kharazi. The treaty bans nuclear test explosions worldwide.

(AFP PHOTO)

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a written statement to the UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali, Velayati said that Iran's motive behind signing of the treaty stems from Tehran's belief in nuclear disarmament and a world free of weapons of mass destruction. This measure of Iran is a proof to baselessness of propaganda launched by the arrogant powers against Iran, he added.

The Iranian foreign minister further criticized putting the Zionist regime in the category of the Middle East and East Asia describing it a political move. He added that the measure is against the prevailing atmosphere of the UN and stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran is seriously against it.

Velayati who is currently here for the 51st assembly of the UN inspected two Islamic and education centers of 'Razi' and 'Al-Iman' in the city.

He lauded the centers for concentrating on promotion and education of religious sciences, Islamic culture and Persian language.

He voiced satisfaction of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei with the endeavors of the academic staff of the centers and for their sincere efforts in providing facilities to those interested and for promotion of Islmaic science.

(IRNA)

Syria: Israel Cannot Fool Europe

DAMASCUS — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will fail to win support on his current European tour for his tough stand on the Middle East peace process, official Syrian newspapers said Wednesday.

Tishrin said "Netanyahu will not be able to fool Europe because most European countries have grown wary of his plans and his bland statements aimed solely at drawing sympathy."

He "certainly will not succeed in promoting his policies opposed to

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Israel to Build 600 Homes for Golan Settlers

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — The Israeli government will build 600 homes over the next two years for Jewish settlers in the Golan Heights, annexed from Syria in 1981, a settlers' representative said Wednesday.

Yehuda Wolman, who heads a settlers' council, said he had received assurances on construction of the housing units in the Golan Heights from Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon on Tuesday.

"Sharon gave the green light for the construction of three housing blocks of 200 units each in the western part of the Golan," Wolman told an Israeli radio station. "Work will begin in 10 months and be finished in two years."

The three new settlements would be built within two kilometers (1.2 miles) of existing sites, which would allow them to be considered as extensions of existing settlements instead of new housing developments.

Israel has in the past applied such a policy to expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank.

Nearly 14,000 Israelis are currently living in 30 settlements in the Golan and the new housing units would allow for a 20 percent increase in the number of Jewish settlers in the region.

The Golan Heights were seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and annexed by Israel in December 1981.

(AFP)

Taleban Militia Enter Kabul Suburbs

PULE-CHARKHI, Afghanistan — The Taleban Islamic militia Wednesday entered Kabul's eastern suburbs and fighting was raging only a few kilometers (miles) from the city center.



The Taleban captured Lataband Pass and were shelling the Pule-Charkhi area 10 kilometers (six miles) from the city center, frontline government troops said.

"The Taleban are behind those hills, at the mouth of the Lataband Pass," a Pule-Charkhi security guard told AFP here.

Clouds of rising dust from apparently Taleban artillery fire could be seen beyond the infamous prison, near the village of Butkhak.

At a place called Bandi Ghazi on a dirt road to the south of Butkhak, fighting was reported but it was unclear whether the Taleban or government forces were in control there.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported fighting raging near Kabul's military academy and customs house, about six kilometers (four miles) from the city center.

The agency, based in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar, also reported the capture of Mahipar and Pule-Charkhi prison.

The agency said the Taleban had also launched an assault on Butkhak, on Kabul's eastern fringes.

Many tanks and truckloads of government troop reinforcements were seen on the way to the Pule-Charkhi area. Journalists were stopped from traveling further down the main road.

The Kabul airforce made several bombing raids against the Taleban in the area using both jets, and Russian-made transport planes with large internal bomb loads.

Students from the military academy were seen marching back to the capital carrying their personal kit.

When asked why they were evacuating and not staying to fight, the trainee officers replied: "We haven't graduated yet."

In the past two weeks the Taleban have made massive territorial gains, capturing the three eastern Afghan provinces of Nangrahar, Laghman and Kunar.

Following hard on the heels of Tuesday night's capture of the vital Kabul province district center of Sarobi, the Taleban pushed through the Lataband Pass towards Kabul.

A senior officer in charge of Kabul's eastern defenses conceded that the government had fallen back from the Mahipur hydro-electric dam which is on the main highway 30 kilometers (18 miles) west of Sarobi.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry Wednesday issued a communique calling for an extraordinary ses-

(Contd on Pg. 10)

West Disarms Weak Nations Through Cultural Assault



MOHAQEQ DAMAD
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Dr. Seyed Mustafa Mohaqeq Damad told the *Tehran Times* here that today the West spare no effort to disarm the weak nations particularly Third World countries through cultural assault.

As a member of Public Culture's Council, Mohaqeq Damad further elaborated on practical ways of confronting Western cultural onslaught through satellite dishes, saying: People should be vigilant vis-a-vis the West's plots and realize that dissemination of the Western culture seriously threatening the morality of their children.

He said that the Iranian nation who enjoy a rich Islamic culture should not bow down before the bullying powers through imitating their destructive culture.

Today the arrogant powers want to strengthen their foothold in other nations through cultural assault. They leave no stone unturned to keep them away from their genuine beliefs, Mohaqeq Damad added.

Mohaqeq Damad reiterated that the best way to confront the cultural assault is that people give special attention to their own national, cultural and religious values and principles.

Today, the West is looking for more consumer markets in the world for its products. Collective efforts should be made to convince people not to consume the Western goods, and rely on their

(Contd on Pg. 10)

NATO Ministers Start Planning New Bosnia Force

BERGEN, Norway — NATO defense ministers took a significant step on Wednesday towards keeping thousands of troops in Bosnia next year after the mandate of the current peace mission runs out in late December.

NATO diplomats said the 16 ministers, meeting informally in this Norwegian port city, accepted some sort of force would probably be necessary, but wanted the military to start work on a range of options.

"No-one spoke against keeping a force there," said one NATO official.

Diplomats said the ministers wanted NATO's military to begin work on an assessment of the tasks any 'follow-on' force to the 52,000-strong Implementation Force (IFOR) would be required

(Contd on Pg. 10)

Two Killed as Israeli Police Enter Ramallah

RAMALLAH, West Bank — At least two Palestinians were killed Wednesday in heavy fighting between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police in this Palestinian self-rule area north of Bait-ul-Moqaddas, hospital officials said.

Israeli soldiers and Palestinian security forces were exchanging heavy gunfire as a force of about 300 Israeli troops advanced into the Ramallah autonomy zone, witnesses said. Israel radio also reported the clashes.

"More than two people have been killed, including Palestinian policemen," Shawki Haub, the director of Ramallah hospital, told AFP. The official voice of Palestine Radio said both dead men were policemen.

At least 80 Palestinians were hurt Wednesday when Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas to break up protests here against Israeli excavations near Bait-ul-Moqaddas' Al-Aqsa Mosque, hospital officials said.

Some 200 Israeli troops used their weapons to break up a crowd of more than 1,000 protesters at an Israeli Army checkpoint just outside Ramallah, which is controlled by

(Contd on Pg. 10)

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In the Name of Allah

Then the earthquake overtook them, so they became motionless bodies in their abode.

(HOLY QORAN)(7:78)

OPINION

Fall of Kabul Will Be Another Catastrophe for Afghans

Reports reaching here indicate that the Taleban militia has tightened its noose around the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The short history of Taleban's rule in the Afghan provinces is so dark that it is clear to even a layman that the group would produce the most hardline regime in the world if it ever came to power.

A quick look at the performance of the group in Afghanistan might paint a picture of the type of system that Taleban would introduce if it captured power in Kabul.

When Taleban appeared on the Afghan scene a couple of years ago, Afghans weary of civil war welcomed the fighters as a clean force, with the hope of eliminating widespread corruption in the war-torn country.

With the hope of living in peace, the Afghan people welcomed the Taleban as a force that could put an end to the four-year power struggle among the nine major factions.

On its part, the Taleban entered the scene, declaring, 'peace, security, and stability' as its objectives. It also vowed to remove the Mujahedeen from power.

But all is not well with the Taleban. The group has a superficial, falsified perception of Islamic teachings. Although Taleban fighters have styled themselves as Islamic students, most of them are illiterate. Whenever they enter any area they try to restore traditional moral values which are not acceptable to the civilized world.

In almost all provinces which they have captured, they have closed girls' schools and banned women from the public workplace.

The Taleban have forced men to grow beards and publicly intimidate those who disobey. They also punish those whose facial hair is not of the required length by painting on beards. These are some of the ideals the Taleban is struggling to impose on the society.

Now the group's militia is at the doorstep of Kabul. The onus is on the international community to prevent the capture of Kabul by the Taleban. This would be the fatal blow to bleeding Afghanistan.

It is time Pakistan revised its Afghan policy. A takeover by the Taleban is by no means in the interest of Pakistan which is presently entangled in a bloody inter-religious strife. If the claims of Afghan officials on the defection of a Taleban aircraft, carrying Pakistani military officers, to Kabul turns out to be true, Pakistan is to share the blame for bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The UN Security Council should hold a special session to find a way to stop the fanatical Taleban militia from taking control of the fate of millions of Afghans who have already borne the brunt of a bloody civil war.

Iran's Proposal to Set Up Secretariat for Asian Women Welcomed

TEHRAN — The Women's Department at the President's Office said here on Tuesday Iranian proposal on setting up a permanent secretariat for promotion of women's status was welcomed by the representatives of 21 states from Asia and the Pacific held in Seoul, South Korea, recently.

The Women's Department said Iranian proposal was accepted as the main subject approved in the regional conference sponsored by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) on promotion of women through restructuring national foundations following the action plan adopted in Beijing last year.

Iranian representative to the regional conference in Seoul Ma'soumeh Ebtekar said that at the threshold of the 21st century, Asian women and men would use every effective mechanism in co-operation with one another to guarantee the values and human dignity for the future generation.

Ms. Ebtekar called on the specialist agencies of the United Nations to place the topic of consolidating the family in the parameters in their programming. (IRNA)

Baburin Confers With Movahedi Kermani

Tehran Times Service

Tehran — Deputy Speaker of Russian Duma, Sergei Baburin, here Wednesday said that the U.S. presence everywhere is based upon the preservation of its interests in the area and that Washington intervention will not solve any problem rather it will escalate tensions.

He made the remark in a meeting with the Second Deputy Speaker of the Majlis, Movahedi Kermani.

Russia is firmly against the expansion of NATO eastward, Baburin said.

Lauding independent stands of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Baburin said Iran should be taken as a symbol of fully fledged sovereign state in the world. Iran not only has preserved its values but also voiced its independent stands in the international arena.

He applauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for constructive role it played in the settlement of Tajikistan and Chechen crises and its peaceful initiatives in mediating between Afghan rival factions. He said such initiatives were based on Iran's full-fledged independence in pursuing its foreign policy.

Underlining the importance of the Caspian Sea's legal regime, Baburin criticized Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan for their unilateral stances on the Caspian Sea's legal regime.

The Caspian Sea issue is related to all the littoral states and the matter should be resolved in a way that the interests of the littoral states be preserved, he said, adding that no alien element is allowed to intervene in this particular matter, he stressed.

Baburin hoped that the upcoming visit of Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri to Moscow would further strengthen bilateral relations.

Movahedi Kermani, for his part, underlined the effective roles the Russian Duma and the Iranian Majlis and called for formation of inter-parliamentary friendship group which will help further promotion of relations between the two countries.

Expressing satisfaction with the current Tehran-Moscow relations, he said the close cooperation and coordination between the two countries for solving the crises in Tajikistan and Afghanistan and in defining Caspian Sea's legal regime further strengthened the relations.

He stressed that such friendly cooperation would help prevent interference of the outsiders in the regional affairs.

Referring to the intra-territorial d'Amoto Bill, Movahedi Kermani thanked the Russian government for its firm stand against the U.S. insistence on the application of such bill as an extra territorial measure.

The United States has failed in its efforts to enforce its unilateral sanction against the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kermani said, adding that this failure should teach the U.S. administration a lesson to refrain from adventurous policies.

He expressed hope that the Chechen crisis would be resolved fairly and justifiably.

Irish FM: Rushdie's Case Not Raised in EU-Iran Talks

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said the issue of apostate author Salman Rushdie was not included in the agenda of talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and the European Union representatives.

Speaking after talks with the Iranian delegation on Tuesday evening, EU's rotating president added, "The issue was not even raised informally."

Quoting European Union officials, Western news media reported last week that Iran and the EU have approached agreement on the six-year long dispute on the apostate author. They had expected the final agreement to be signed during the Iran-EU meeting on the sidelines of the 51st assembly of the UN.

The Irish foreign minister said that both sides knew beforehand that the talks were not in the fashion to allow both sides to come up with a definite decision.

As for the next round of the talks, he said he had no information yet. Spring however added that the contacts will continue. (IRNA)

Malaysia Woos Iran in Joint Islamic Conferences

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Director General of the Malaysia's International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, Professor Van, here Tuesday called for Iran's cooperation in convening joint conferences to discuss concerns of Muslim intellectuals.

He made the call in a meeting with Deputy Chairman of the Majlis' Foreign Policy Commission, Javad Larijani, who welcomed the idea. Larijani said the main problem of Muslim intellectuals is how to structure social institutions in accordance with the Islamic thought and teachings.

"The culmination of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 helped to materialize an Islamic system which until then was only a theoretical idea," Larijani added.

Larijani cited the problem of a true picture of an Islamic government as among key problems faced by the Islamic world.

He stressed that Muslim intellectuals should be brave enough to probe into the roots of the problem and refrain from prescribing only palliative solutions.

Professor Van said Iran's experiences in the establishment of an Islamic system are of great importance for both the Muslim statesmen and intellectuals.

The Malaysian professor further underlined the fact that common areas existed wherein Malaysia and Iran could share their experiences vis-a-vis educational policies, higher education and technology.

On behalf of the president of Malaysia's International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization, Prof. Van extended an invitation to Larijani to attend a forthcoming conference under the auspices of the institute.

Tehran Mayor Meets Kuwaiti Crown Prince

ABU DHABI — Tehran's Mayor Gholam Hossein Karbaschi held talks in Kuwait City on Tuesday with Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah on issues of mutual interest.

Karbaschi arrived in Kuwait City on Monday at the invitation of the Head of the City Council and Mayor of Kuwait City Abdulrahman al-Huti. The Kuwait City's mayor had visited Tehran last year.

Iranian delegation from Tehran Municipality accompanying Karbaschi will exchange views with Kuwait City's municipality experts on urban development, city transport and landscape gardening.

Tehran and Kuwait City are expected to sign a treaty to become sister cities.

President on the Outcome of His Visit to Zanjan

TEHRAN — President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Tuesday ended his one-day visit to Zanjan Province of Iran where he inaugurated several development projects.

The projects were in the area of water supply, industries, telecommunications, and food industries.

President Rafsanjani also referred to agricultural projects in Zanjan Province and said as producers learn modern techniques of agricultural production and food processing, better prospects of export of processed agricultural products, among them raisins, lie ahead.

He commented that the province has an excellent outlook for producing grapes and in light of the benefits involved in the export of raisins, he called on would-be investors to study investment in that field in the province.

He also referred to the inauguration of two technical and vocational schools in the province which, he said, would be a great aid to the education of skilled workers for the province. (IRNA)

Velayati Meets Counterparts, President Izetbegovic

UNITED NATIONS, New York — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday met with a number of senior foreign officials including his counterparts on the sidelines of the 51st assembly of the UN.

The Iranian delegation led by Velayati in a meeting with present, previous and future chairmen of the European Union headed by Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring reviewed relations between Iran and the EU.

Stressing Iran's vital role in the Persian Gulf and developments in the Middle East, Spring said that ongoing EU-Iran talks are crucial.

Turning to EU's opposition to America's extraterritorial policies including the d'Amato bill, he expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the last round of EU-Iran talks.

Security of the Persian Gulf and the latest developments in the Middle East, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina and northern Iraq were also raised in the meeting.

Meanwhile, the EU chairmen termed Iran's role in bringing reconciliation among different Afghan groups, in taking in of Iraqi Kurdish refugees, and in helping end air attacks on Lebanon as positive developments.

In another development, Velayati met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic and discussed the outcome of the recent elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Congratulating Izetbegovic on his victory in the Bosnian presidential elections, Velayati said that all these achievements are owed to the resistance of the people.

Appreciating Iran for its generous support for his country, the Bosnian president said outcome of Iran's aid to Bosnian nation is evident in settlement of the problems of the country.

Velayati also met with his Sudanese counterpart Ali Uthman Taha on Tuesday reviewing promotion of Tehran-Khartoum relations.

The Sudanese foreign minister said that his country fully respects the agreement reached between Sudan and Uganda through Iran's mediation. He dismissed claims that Sudan has carried out military operations inside the Ugandan territory.

The two ministers also assessed political and economic relations between the two countries and called for further consolidation of Tehran-Khartoum relations.

Meanwhile, Velayati met with his Austrian counterpart Wolfgang Schussel on the same day. Schussel praised Iran's humanitarian move in allowing in Kurdish refugees from northern Iraq.

Velayati, heading a delegation, arrived here Sunday evening for a ten-day visit to attend the 51st assembly of the UN. (IRNA)

Iran's Mediation Between Sudan, Uganda Not in the Interest of U.S.

KHARTOUM — The Iranian Embassy here Tuesday described the U.S. displeasure with Iran's mediation between Sudan and Uganda as a sign of Washington's oppressive mentality.

In a statement, the embassy stressed that the U.S. reaction published in the Sudanese *Akhbar al-Youm* newspaper on Tuesday indicated that Washington wished to act as the gendarme of the world.

"Who in the world has granted the U.S. the right to determine the role of other countries?" asked the statement adding that interests and security of Iran demand that because of geographical proximity with the Horn of Africa, working for the security and stability of the region is needed.

Following the successful mediation, Sudan and Uganda resumed their relations which was ruptured since 1995. (IRNA)

KARAJ, Tehran Province — As much as 250 kilograms of narcotics were seized from traffickers in Karaj this week and members of two drug rings were arrested.

Britain Hopes to Have Largest Stand at Tehran Fair

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Orient Exhibitions leave London Wednesday to organize the British pavilion at this year's Tehran International Fair which promises to be the largest since 1991.

The British pavilion, covering an area of 1,600 square meters, consists of 57 stands representing 72 UK firms. The number is markedly up on last year, when some 50 British companies were spread over 37 stands.

Orient's Managing Director Andy MaClean told IRNA before leaving that the confidence of British companies in the Iranian market had returned and was evidenced by the significant increase the UK has shared during the past two years.

He said the firms were "taking full advantage of the opportunities to be found" following the removal of Iran's past payment difficulties.

UK industries represented at the fair, which opens on October 2, include automotive parts, telecommunications, chemicals, computers, packaging materials, plastics, oil exploration, printing, truck manufacture, pharmaceuticals and power generation.

The British pavilion is customarily one of the biggest, but this year could be the largest depending on the size of its main rivals, Germany, France and Italy.

The UK's share of the Iranian market is substantially less than before the 1979 Islamic Revolution, falling into fourth place against its European competitors, in recent years it has shown more resilience.

Many of its rivals have continued to show falls in sales due to Iran's import compression policy, while Britain last year recorded an 8.5 percent increase in exports and a further 8.8 percent rise in the first six months of this year.

Australian Diplomat Lauds Iran's Economic Development

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Australian Ambassador to Tehran Nicolas Warner conferred with Head of the Majlis Plan and Budget Commission Qorbanali Dorri-Najafabadi here Wednesday.

Warner hailed the trend of economic development in Iran and said that his country was ready to promote its cooperation with Iran in all areas, IRNA reported.

Dorri-Najafabadi said for his part that there were suitable facilities and grounds both in Iran and Australia for expansion of bilateral ties.

He called for promotion of mutual ties and cooperation in all spheres, especially in the industry and mine sectors.

President Calls For Promotion of Public Health Insurance



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here on Wednesday emphasized the importance of public health insurance and programs supporting the low income strata of the society.

In a meeting with the board of directors and the executive board of the Medical Services and Insurance Organization, the president saying that health services rendered in the past had been unacceptable, noted that his government has made huge investments to bring all individuals across the country under cover of health insurance, IRNA reported.

President Rafsanjani said the benefits of insurance should be publicized to encourage the population to apply for health insurance.

Before the president's speech, Minister of Health and Medical Education Alireza Marandi gave a report on the activities of the Medical Services and Insurance Organization.

SAEEDLOU:

22nd Trade Fair, Manifestation of Islamic Republic's Righteousness



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The head of the Export Promotion Center (EPC), Ali Saeedlou, said that the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair will manifest the righteousness of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political and economic arena.

He underlined that the country's success in the international scene depends on its ability to prove its capabilities and potentials to the world.

Now the world has realized that after eight years of Sacred Defense and eight years of reconstruction, Iran is a suitable place for cooperation in all fields, said Saeedlou.

Speaking at a press conference a week before the inauguration of the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair, Saeedlou emphasized that some 50 exhibitions have been held by the center during the past six months, adding that the Export Promotion Center is scheduled to organize some 100 exhibitions by the end of the Iranian calendar year (March 20, 1997).

The head of EPC pointed out that the 22nd Tehran International Trade Fair will open on October 2 and will run through October 9.

He added that the fair will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the first four days of the fair are reserved for experts.

Asked to comment on the number of participants in the fair, Saeedlou said that some 4000 companies from 54 countries will take part and display their products at the fair.

He stated that the number of foreign participants in the fair has grown 100 percent this year.

Saeedlou added that Germany, Italy and Britain will have a major representation at the fair, and Jordan, Indonesia, Syria, Qatar and Singapore will take part for the first time.

Iran, Austria Discuss Labor Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Leader of the Austrian Labor Union and head of the Labor Unions of the European Union, in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Vienna, Mahdi Mohtashemi, underscored readiness for cooperation with Iranian organizations in the area of exchange of innformation and mutual consultation.

During the meeting held on Monday in Vienna, the Austrian Labor Union leader called for expnasion of labor cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRNA reported.

The Iranian ambassador hinted at the excellent relations between the two countries in different fields including participation of Austrian companies in infrastructural projects in Iran, and called for exchange of views and information between the labor unions of the two countries.

Mohtashemi expressed Iran's interest in expansion of educational and vocational cooperation and exchange of technical knowhow between Iran and Austria.

He referred to the good relations between Iran and the European Union and called for cooperation and exchange of views between labor unions and organizations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and those of Europe.

WFP Donates Rls.2.286bn for Kurdish Refugees

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The World Food Program (WFP), the food aid agency of the United Nations system, has approved food assistance worth Rls.2.286bn to some 40,000 new Iraqi Kurdish refugees, a message faxed yesterday from the UN Information Center here said.

The aid, intended for a period of three and a half months until the end of this year (1996), consists of 1,498 metric tons (MT) of wheat, 428 MT of rice, 86 MT of oil, 128 MT of pulses and 64 MT of sugar.

The commodities, with the exception of oil, are already in Iran and have the approval of WFP for release from existing stocks for immediate distribution to the refugees in the three affected western provinces of W. Azerbaijan, Kurdestan and Kermanshah.

The stocks so released will be replaced by WFP with shipments from abroad, with a small quantity of oil to be supplied from nearby countries.

WFP has also delivered a total of 110.5 MT of commodities, including 31.5 MT of oil, from WFP stocks in Northern Iraq to meet the immediate food needs of the new refugees, the statement said.

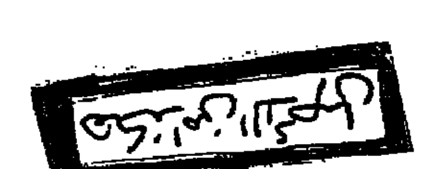
French Embassy Donates 20 Tons of Aid to Kurdish Refugees

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — French embassy here Wednesday dispatched a consignment of humanitarian aid to Kermanshah Province for the Kurdish refugees who have recently flowed toward Iranian borders from Iraq.

In a fax received by the *Tehran Times*, the embassy said that the consignment which consists of 20 tons of foodstuff and other humanitarian aids will be delivered to the Iranian officials in one of the border camps in Kermanshah by the embassy's first secretary.

The measures was in line with Iran's call for help to shelter the Iraqi Kurd refugees and in accordance with consultations with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Affairs (UNHCR), the fax added.



Sports Summary

Tehran Times Service

SOCCER

PARIS: There were no miracles for top UEFA Cup sides Parma, Bayern Munich and Aston Villa. All three failed to make amends for sloppy first-leg performances in Tuesday's return matches and found themselves dumped out of the competition in the first-round.

Parma, which managed only a 2-1 win in Italy a fortnight ago, went down 2-0 at Vitoria Guimaraes — the Portuguese club sewing up the tie with a 15th minute goal from international midfield Vitor Paneira and then a second from Brazilian frontrunner Ricardo four minutes after the interval.

Meanwhile part-timer helsingborgs upset Aston Villa in Sweden by holding the English premiership giant to a 0-0 draw and goes through thanks to its away goal following its shock 1-1 draw in England.

Cup holder Bayern Munich, beaten 3-0 by Valencia in Spain two weeks ago, looked to be on the right road in the return in Germany when it went ahead after just three-minutes thanks to an own-goal by Navarro. But Valencia quickly closed up shop and it turned out to be the only goal of the encounter.

LONDON: English second division giantkiller York was up to its old tricks in the league cup on Tuesday when it upset premiership giant Everton with a 3-2 win to reach the third round of the competition 4-3 on aggregate. Twelve months ago York also sent shock waves through English football by humbling eventual premiership champion Manchester United.

In Tuesday's match the second division side came from behind after Paul Rideout had given Everton the lead. Goals from Neil Tolson, Gary Bull and Graeme Murty took the stuffing out of Everton which scored a last-minute consolation goal through Gary Speed.

First division Oxford also beat premiership opposition when it defeated Sheffield Wednesday 1-0 for an aggregate 2-1 win. Nigel Jemson scored its winner with just five minutes to go.

And Manchester City's misery continued. Beaten 4-1 at Lincoln in the first-leg, it crashed 1-0 in the return at Maine Road — Gijsbert Bos finding the net after just 17 minutes.

BILBAO: Bilbao's French international midfielder Bixente Lizarazu will miss France's friendly with Turkey next month after tearing a calf muscle. Lizarazu was injured in training while playing a game of "football-tennis" and is set to be out for at least two weeks.

TENNIS

TOKYO: Japan's Kimiko Date took the tennis world by surprise on Tuesday by announcing her retirement from the game at the end of the season. Date, ranked seventh in the world and about to celebrate her 26th birthday next Saturday, said that she felt she had reached her limits both mentally and physically over the past few years. Date, who beat world number one Steffi Graf of Germany in the Fed Cup first round in April only to narrowly lose to the world number one in the semifinal at this year's Wimbledon, also hinted that her decision had been hastened by the new WTA ranking system which is to be introduced in which players will be enouraged to enter more tournaments. Date became the first Japanese player to be ranked in the 'top-ten' in Januray 1994 and reached a career high fourth spot last year.

BASEL, Switzerland: Boris Becker, out of action since injuring his right wrist at Wimbledon two months ago, made a winning return to tournament tennis here on Tuesday when he defeated Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 in the one-million- dollar ATP event. This year's Australian Open player, who had to pull out of a comeback bid at the Romanian Open in Bucharest a fortnight ago, admitted that it was a great feeling to have completed a match.

Other winner included Sweden's Stefan Edberg. Edberg, who featured in Sweden's Davis Cup semifinal triumph in Prague at the weekend beat Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-3, 5-7, 6-3. The 30-year-old former world number one has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

PALERMO, Italy: Spain's seeded players Alberto Berasategui, Carlos Moya, Alex Correjta and Jordi Burillo all came safely through their first round clashes here on Tuesday.

LYON: Jim Courier is to miss the 750,000-dollar ATP Tournament opening here on September 30 because of a knee injury. The former world number one was beaten by Switzerland's Marc Rosset in the 1994 event. He was seeded ninth this year.

AUTO

MILAN, Italy: Ferrari designer John Barnard has admitted that this season's car had failed to live up to expectations, but says he is convinced it will have a better start to the 1997 world championship. Barnard's 1996 car arrived late, barely tested and was doomed to suffer a string of retirements because of unreliability. However, the teething problems with the all-new F310 now seem to be at an end, enabling Michael Schumacher to bring up his third victory of the season at Monza two weeks ago.

RUGBY

CARDIFF, Wales: Wales skipper Jonathan Humphreys has been forced to pull out of the side to face France in Wednesday night's friendly Rugby Union because of a hamstring injury. Neath hooker Barry Williams will replace him to win his first cap and Swansea's Garin Jenkins moves onto the replacements bench. Llanelli center Nigel Davies takes over the captaincy.

CRICKET

LONDON: West Indies test captain Courtney Walsh has agreed a new two-year contract with Gloucestershire and Hampshire has signed Australian opening batsman Matthew Hayden as its overseas player for next season. Walsh, who took 85 wickets in the season just ended, joined Gloucestershire in 1984 and has since missed three seasons while the West Indies has toured here. In all he has taken 763 wickets for the county. Hayden, the 25-year-old Queensland vice-captain, has signed a one-year deal. He has scored over 7,000 runs in his first class career at an average of 57 — better than anyone currently playing first class cricket in Australia. Hayden came on the 1993 Ashes Tour, although he did not figure in the tests, and returned in 1995 with young Australia.



MUNICH, Germany (September 24): Bayern Munich's Juergen Klinsmann (R) shakes hands with Valencia's Vicente Engonga (L) following their UEFA Cup first round, second leg match. Cup holder Bayern Munich crashed out of the UEFA Cup at the first hurdle after a 1-0 at the Olympic Stadium over Valencia proved insufficient to book its passage.

(AFP PHOTO)

Russia Maintains Chess Olympiad Lead

YEREVAN, Armenia — Russia maintained its lead in the World Chess Olympiad despite team leader Gary Kasparov's a draw with Spanish player Alexei Shirov.

In the eighth of the Olympiad's 14 rounds, Russia beat Spain 2.5:1.5, and now has 23.5 points. Kasparov, the world's top-ranked player, had his forth draw at the Olympiad.

Bulgarian team defeated Uzbekistan 3:1 and shares the second place with Spain. Both teams have 21 points.

Four teams — Georgia, Hungary, Armenia-1 and the United States tied for third place with 20.5 points each.

In women's competition, the Georgian team cruised to the 3-0 victory over Hungary and now leads with 19 points.

China beat Russia 2.5:0.5 to become the sole team in second place.

Ukraine played to a draw with Romania 1.5-1.5 and holds the third position.

Men's Results:

Russia	2.5	Spain	1.5
Georgia	2.5	China	1.5
England	2	Croatia	2
Armenia-1	3	Belarus	1
United States	3	Israel	1
Hungary	2.5	Estonia	1.5
Bulgaria	3	Uzbekistan	1
Germany	3	Greece	1
Ukraine	2.5	Philippines	1.5
Netherlands	2.5	Sweden	1.5
Yugoslavia	2.5	Cuba	1.5
Bosnia	3	Kazakhstan	1
France	2.5	Latvia	1.5

Women's Results:

Ukraine	1.5	Romania	1.5
Yugoslavia	1.5	England	1.5
Poland	3	Bulgaria	0
Germany	2.5	Moldova	0.5
Georgia	3	Hungary	0
China	2.5	Russia	0.5
Israel	2	Kazakhstan	1
Greece	1.5	Armenia-1	1.5
Vietnam	1.5	Slovakia	1.5

(AP)

Barry Forces 3-3 Tie, Aberdeen Advances in UEFA Cup

BARRY, Wales — The Welsh semi pros of Barry town held Aberdeen to a 3-3 tie in the UEFA Cup Tuesday but still went out of the UEFA Cup 6-4 on aggregate.

Trailing 3-1 to the Scottish club after the first leg, Dave O'Gorman cut that lead to one goal by scoring in the fourth minute at Jenner Park.

Billy Dodds equalized after 15 minutes to restore Aberdeen's two-goal advantage and then made it 2-1 10 minutes later after good approach work by Bulgarian international Ilian Kiriakov.

Darren Ryan made it 2-2 with a 71st minute penalty and Barry went ahead again through Tony Bird eight minutes from the end.

A minute later, David Rowson made sure Aberdeen went through with an equalizer for 3-3. *(AP)*

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour-Jahangir

What Is Kung Fu?

(Part 8)



Undoubtedly, Tamu was not the innovator of Shaolin boxing, but he is still famed thanks to his 18-step exercises. There is no solid evidence on his martial arts although Tamu as the son of an Indian king, must have been a knight. So, he has been certainly a kung fu master. Still, a coauthor named Robert Smith in his book, Martial Arts, says that the main source of Tamu legend is the inherited documents called *Fanoos* (lantern) dating back to almost 500 years after the sect head's will, 1004 AD.

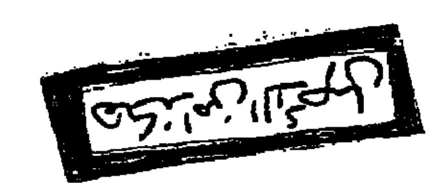
According to a few claims, some parts of a text, The Classic Change of Muscles, are attributed to Tamu but these claims present no documents. Conversely, the newest statement regarding this subject dates back to early 19th century. In other words, Hydooshinsu, the master of Japanese Shaolin boxing (Japanese Shoorinji Compo), in recent publications of 'Shoorinji Compo' explains about philosophy and technique, "The paintings still seen on Shaolin Temple's walls clearly have illustrated the secluded people with dark color among the Japanese painted in brighter color. According to Dooshin-Su, if all these priest in dark color have been Indian, the claim calling Tamu as the founder of Shaolin School will become stronger.

With the emergence of Ti-Ang dynasty, kung fu in particular Shaolin expanded over the borders of China. The first emperor of the dynasty asked for Shaolin men to defeat his enemy 'Wangshid-Cheowang'. His astonishing victories in various wars brought about a national fame entitled 'Invincible-Warriors .

Shaolin boxing at the time of Ti Aee-Tezo sovereignty (960-976 AD), the first Emperor Sowang dynasty (960-1126 AD) was established as a martial art. A kung fu master namely Ti Aee-Tezo introduced some 32 lengthy boxing styles called 'Chee Ang Cheowang' along with six steps in addition to main principles.



It is believed that in the same dynasty, Yuayd Fiay (1103-1142 AD), an imperial army general has also learned to fight with spear to create 'Missing Eye', a style different from kung fu. Missing Eye style deals with vertical blows straight down, with the emphasis on the power of fists. It is nowadays one of the main branches of 'internal system' fights.



Bonn Queries Further Aid to Israel

BONN — Deputy Foreign Minister Helmut Schaefer on Wednesday queried whether financial support for Israel could continue without conditions, given the new rightwing government's retardation of the peace process.

Speaking on German state radio a day before a visit to Bonn by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Schaefer said that, for example, Israel's evacuation from Al-Khalil was long overdue and must finally be implemented.

Comments so far from Netanyahu had caused concern in Europe as well as in America, Schaefer said. "There is a question whether financial support to Israel can be continued without attaching further conditions."

Netanyahu is currently making his first visit to Europe since coming to power.

Visiting Germany last week, Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat called on European states to help save the peace process, and German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said Israel must implement the Middle East peace accords.

Israel's primary concern in the West Bank is for its own security, and the government has no interest in running Palestinians' lives, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday.

"What I suggest is the Palestinians run their lives with no, or practically minimum interference, from us," he told the BBC after an 18-hour stopover in London which he met Prime Minister John Major.

"We're not interested in any way governing their lives, organizing their lives, choosing their representatives," said Netanyahu. "They should do all of that. But we want security for us.

"In other words," he said, "I envision a division of functions in which the Palestinians run their own affairs and we protect our security. It is possible to achieve it. It is not easy...I'm committed to move forward."

Netanyahu, on his first official European trip since his election, had brief private meetings early Wednesday with former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Labor Party leader Tony Blair, the front-runner in general elections next spring.

From London, Netanyahu was heading for France and Germany.

After meeting with Major Tuesday night, he attempted to calm a war of words with Egypt, saying he considered Israel's relationship with Egypt "the cornerstone of peace with the Arab world." (AFP)

Israeli Warplanes Raid S. Lebanon

NAQURA, Lebanon — Israeli fighter-bombers raided a stronghold of the Hezbollah in South Lebanon on Wednesday after an attack on an Israeli-occupied border zone, Lebanese police said.

One of the planes fired two missiles near Luwayze, on the Iqlim al-Tuffah heights overlooking the port city of Sidon. There were no reports of casualties.

The Muslim Hezbollah earlier shelled an Israeli position at Bir Kellab, inside the occupied zone, security sources said, again without giving a casualty toll.

The air raid came as a five-nation truce monitoring committee met for the third time this week at a UN post in the border town of Naqura after Beirut complained of Israeli shelling.

An April 26 accord to end Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" air and artillery blitz against suspected Hezbollah targets banned attacks on civilian areas or raids launched from villages.

The committee decided to hold its latest session after Lebanon complained of Israeli shelling on Tuesday that damaged a home in the southern village of Araq Salim.

The committee already held a day-long meeting Tuesday over earlier violation charges filed by both Lebanon and Israel. The group also met for six hours on Sunday in Naqura.

Lebanon called Sunday's session after two civilians were wounded and several homes damaged by Israeli shelling and air strikes north of a buffer zone occupied by Israel. (AFP)

Turkish Army Continues Sweep Against Kurdish Rebels

TUNCELI, Turkey — Turkish government forces Wednesday continued a massive operation against Kurdish rebels in Turkey's eastern provinces that has left 57 people dead in the past three days.

Turkish aviation reinforced the sweep, launched last week, strafing the Tunceli area Monday before troops entered the Kinzir forest Tuesday in search of PKK separatists.

Altogether 47 rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), six Turkish soldiers and four pro-government militia were killed in fighting in the eastern provinces, authorities said.

The report said 32 rebels were killed in operations near the border with Syria and Iraq, while 15 others died in clashes in the Tunceli area.

The Turkish army has increased its activity against Kurdish separatists in the eastern and southeastern provinces, in a bid to crush the rebels before winter sets in and slows military operations.

The mountainous area is dotted with caves where the rebels can hide. The army mounted a similar operation last year to root out Kurdish fighters. (AFP)

Pakistani Opposition Alliance Calls Protest

KARACHI — Pakistani opposition parties Wednesday announced support for a national protest called by supporters of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's estranged brother, Murtaza Bhutto, to protest his "murder" last week.

His supporters called the nationwide protest for Thursday against the "brutal murder" of their leader in what they called an act of "state terrorism."

Bhutto, 42, was killed in a shootout with police in Karachi late Friday. Six of his supporters and a passer-by also died.

The 10 party opposition alliance, which includes the Pakistan Muslim League of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the powerful Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Wednesday backed the call.

The alliance leaders issued a statement expressing "deep concern" over the killings and described Murtaza and the other victims as "martyrs."

Altaf Hussain, the self-exiled leader of the MQM, sent a statement from his London home condemning the "state terrorism through which workers and leaders of opposition parties are killed in a pre-planned manner."

The alliance leaders aid prior to Murtaza's killing, a number of leaders and workers of other political parties, including the MQM, had also been killed in what officials always referred to as "police shootouts."

Several towns and villages in Murtaza's home Province of Sindh have been at a standstill since his death and people in some areas have burnt tyres, ransacked buildings and clashed with police in protest. (AFP)

Ukrainian Teachers, Students Take Persian Literature Course

TEHRAN — A course in Persian literature for a group of Ukrainian teachers and students of the language started here on Tuesday at the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization.

30 Ukrainian graduates in Persian literature have attended the course offered by the said organization in cooperation with the Iranian Academy of Persian Literature and the Foreign Ministry.

At the opening session, Ukrainian ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran called the course an important factor in promoting the two nations' bilateral relations.

Head of the training center in the Islamic Culture and Communications Organization Abolqassemi, noting that language is a medium of friendship among nations, expressed hope that the course would familiarize the students with additional features of the rich Persian language and literature. (IRNA)



(Contd from Pg. 1)

SYRIA...

peace, and the Europeans will not accept Israel's plans for settlement (in Arab land) and its rejection of a just peace," said the ruling party's daily *Al-Baath*.

Netanyahu embarked Tuesday on a tour of Britain, France and Germany in a bid to drum up economic support for the peace process, which has stalled since his right-wing Likud came to power in Israel's May election. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

KUWAIT...

Iraq announced on Monday it had formed a committee to determine the fate of Iraqis and Kuwaitis missing since the 1991 Persian Gulf war, the first such initiative by Baghdad which claims not to be holding any Kuwaiti prisoners.

Riyad Aziz Hadi, President of the Iraqi Human Rights Association, told the official *Al-Jumhuriyah* newspaper that the committee included members of his organization, Parliament, a lawyers' association and the Iraqi Red Crescent.

Kuwait has welcomed the initiative as it presses for information about more than 600 Kuwaitis and others it says are still missing or held prisoner since Iraq's seven-month occupation, which ended in February 1991.

Defense Minister Sheikh Ahmad al-Hammud al-Sabah said he hoped the new committee would prove "a step forward" in resolving the prisoners issue.

A columnist in *Al-Seyassah* newspaper said the Iraqi initiative was long overdue but "a big step to bring positive results for the sake of these innocent prisoners." (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TALEBAN...

sion of the United Nations Security Council to prevent fighting in Kabul and to "stop Pakistan from interfering" in the internal affairs of this country.

"Pakistani interference and aggression has taken the form of an invasion," the communique read.

On Tuesday the government announced the capture of seven Pakistani military officers along with 32 armed religious militiamen when the crew of a Taleban-piloted Russian transport aircraft defected to Bagram airbase 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of kabul. (AFP)

(Contd from Pg. 1)

WEST...

own products, Mohaqeq Damad emphasized.

He averred that people should pay especial attention to preservation of the country's genuine culture in line with economic and social development.

He added that the West spare no effort to misportray the Islamic culture in the world, and that all Muslims shoulder the responsibility to familiarize others with their real culture and beliefs.

He pointed out that through their behavior Muslims can show the world that the West anti-Islamic culture claims are baseless."

As for negative impacts of dissemination of Western culture on youths, he underlined that the youths should be familiarized with religious teachings and that it is a difficult task which requires special attention in the society.

He further referred to the Islamic gnosticism particularly its Shia aspect which is combined with the teachings of the Infallible Household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S), as a rich Islamic cultural resource, and reiterated that it can meet the spiritual needs of the youths.

The Islamic Shia gnosticism is more attractive than the West existentialism. It can completely fill the spiritual vacuum of the youths particularly when it is taught along with Iranian rich literature.

He averred that Shia gnosticism should be taught by veteran Islamic experts and that the society itself plays a pivotal role in this regard.

Touching on the meaning of public culture, Mohaqeq Damad emphasized that it refers to the public training in the society saying: The public culture is not limited to a particular group, it deals with the national genuineness of the whole society.

As a member of Public Culture Council, Mohaqeq Damad further elaborated on the main activities of the council and that the council is comprised of several culture-related organs as the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Propagation Organization, Cultural Heritage Organization, Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, and the University Jihad.

He added that a group of journalists and Islamic Republic of Iran's Broadcasting cooperate with the council as well.

Mohaqeq Damad reiterated that the society's mass media as well as ulemas, Friday prayers leaders, scholars, and writers play a pivotal and constructive role in developing the public culture in the country.

He concluded by saying that through remarkable guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the country has take key measures for preservation of the Islamic culture in recent years.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

TWO...

Yasser Arafat's autonomy government, witnesses said.

Hundreds of Israeli police officers were deployed here Wednesday after Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat called a strike and demonstrations to protest the extension of a tunnel near Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Police officers and border guards were guarding entrances to Bait-ul-Moqaddas' annexed old city, the tunnel's exit and schools, witnesses said.

Most shops in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas had their iron shutters closed Wednesday morning following Arafat's call for a strike the day before. Shops throughout the West Bank and Gaza are to strike as well for two hours in the afternoon.

The call for a strike and protest made by Arafat's Palestinian Authority was the first ever such appeal since self-rule began in May 1994.

"We call on the Palestinians to step up the fight mainly through a strike, by demonstrations and by a sit-in," said Finance Minister Mohammed Nashashibi.

"The Israeli action clearly proves that Israel does not want peace," he added after an emergency meeting of the Palestinian Cabinet in autonomous Gaza City.

But Arafat did not call for a workers' strike alongside the commercial one, to prevent a harshening of the Israeli closure of the territories.

Meanwhile the Arab League is to hold an emergency meeting on Thursday to oppose Israel's extension of a tunnel skirting Al-Aqsa Mosque in annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

An official at the Cairo-based organization said Wednesday that the meeting would take place at the level of permanent representatives and was called at the request of the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinians and the Arab League have condemned Israel's opening on Tuesday of an archaeological tunnel along the western wall of Bait-ul-Moqaddas' mosque compound, the third holiest site in Islam.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan ibn Talal accused Israel on Wednesday of "violating the sanctity" of the holy city with its extension of a tunnel along the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque in annexed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

"These actions endanger the legitimate aspirations of those who believe in the preservation of Jerusalem as a spiritual citadel and a symbol hope for future generations," he said.

The prince, quoted by the official news agency Petra, accused Israel of "violating the sanctity of the holy city" and warned that Bait-ul-Moqaddas had been a cause of war in the past.

The Palestinians, backed by the Arab League, have condemned Israel's opening on Tuesday of an archaeological tunnel along the western wall of the mosque compound, a sacred site for Jews and Muslims alike.

Jordan will contact Israeli authorities "to discuss this political crisis which affects" Jews, Muslims and Christians, the crown prince said.

The Jordanian government, meanwhile, "condemned the Israeli measures which endanger the structure of Al-Aqsa Mosque," the third-holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

(Contd from Pg. 1)

NATO...

to do and a clear statement of the mission's aims.

They said NATO's policy-making North Atlantic council would formally instruct the military to begin preparations at the next weekly meeting in Brussels.

Four options for the force, which is certain to involve U.S. grounds troops, would be considered:

— Total withdrawal of the existing force

— A deterrence force limited to preventing an outbreak of fresh fighting

— A deterrence force with a wider mandate to provide a general security framework

— A force fulfilling deterrence and giving support to civilian reconstruction efforts. (Reuter)

WEATHER

The I.R. of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 30°C; Min. temp. 19°C

Clear to half cloudy with dust

Warmest Point:
Omidieh 41°C

Coldest Point:
Khalkhal 3°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	35	Vienna	15
Istanbul	24	Moscow	14
Rome	20	Madrid	21
Athens	27	Abu Dhabi	36
London	18	Karachi	26
Paris	16	New Delhi	33
Frankfurt	–	Kuwait	38

Speaker: Islamization of Universities Should Be Taken Seriously

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said here on Wednesday that all eyes of the world, especially Muslims, have turned towards the Islamic Republic of Iran which is the motherland of all Muslim states.

Addressing the first gathering of the Islamic Association of College Students here at Allameh Amini Hall of Tehran University, he said that Iranian officials could claim today that Islam can establish a government, handle people's affairs, set a pattern for other nations and inspire hope in their hearts.

Hojjatoleslam Nateq Nouri said that preparations should be made to maintain their country's independence and help it preserve its status as a source of hope for other nations of the world.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian Majlis speaker said that Islamization of universities was a "serious and pivotal" issue. He stressed the need to keep training and managerial centers safe in order to attain the lofty goals of the system.

He said that professors, students, textbooks and managerment in univerisites play a key role in Islamizing higher education centers in the country.

University professors, having no faith in the Islamic system and Islamic values and principles, should be confronted seriously, he said.

(IRNA)



Storm Threatened by Hint of Whitewater Pardons

WASHINGTON -- President Clinton's refusal to rule out pardons for former business partners in the Whitewater affair in his home state of Arkansas raised political storm warnings Tuesday.

Some critics suggested a Whitewater amnesty could cause as much public uproar as President Gerald Ford's pardon of resigned President Richard Nixon more than two decades ago to heal the nation after the Watergate scandal.

Clinton was noncommittal when asked Monday about a potential post-election pardon for Jim McDougal, his former wife Susan McDougal and former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker in the affair involving real estate investments.

But he didn't slam the door shut. He said he would review such requests "after there's an evaluation done by the justice Department."

That was enough to arouse strong reaction.

"It would be an unprecedented use of the pardon power when you pardon someone who is involved in a matter in which you yourself are being investigated," said Joseph Digenova, who was U.S. attorney for Washington, D.C., in the Reagan and Bush administrations. He said it could be grounds for impeachment and "would doom his presidency - doom it, no matter what his other accomplishments."

"There would be a storm of outrage and indignation," agreed Robert Goldwin, a constitutional scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Goldwin served in the Ford White House and recalled the protests after Ford's pardon of Nixon for crimes he "committed or might have committed," some historians think the pardon cost Ford reelection in 1976.

On Tuesday, Presidential Press Secretary Mike McCurry said Clinton was "absolutely not" holding the door open for pardons, adding: "He said he hadn't given it any consideration."

In a public television interview Monday, Clinton agreed with Susan McDougal's charge that special counsel Kenneth Starr is "out to get the Clintons" in his independent investigation of the Whitewater affair.

Mrs. McDougal was jailed Sept. 9 on a contempt of court charge for refusing to answer questions before a federal grand jury investigating Whitewater. Among the questions was whether Clinton told the truth in sworn testimony denying knowledge of a fraudulent $300,000 loan.

Clinton said the prosecutors wanted her Mrs. McDougal "to say something bad about us, whether it was the truth or not ..."

As for a post-election pardon, he said: "I've given no consideration to that ... their cases should be handled like others ... I review those cases as they come up after there's an evaluation done by the Justice Department."

So far Clinton has granted 53 pardons, fewer than any president this century. Many have been hardship cases.

(AP)



TEHRAN (Sept.24): People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in Tehran Celebrates the 27th anniversary of the great 1st September Revolution here at Esteghlal Hotel. Several Iranian officials and foreign diplomats attend the ceremony. Deputy Foreign Minister, Hossein Sheikholeslam (C) and Syrian Ambassador here, Ahmad al-Hassan (R) congratulate the Libyan Charge d'affairs in Tehran, Mohammad Sharif al-Chazali (L).

NAM's Role in World Affairs Stressed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- Addressing the commemorative meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on its 35th anniversary in New York on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the underlying philosophy of the NAM remains valid today, pointing out that now is the time for its renaissance.

In a message faxed yesterday from the UN Information Center here, Boutros-Ghali said that "having the culture of democracy among nations at its core, the Non-Aligned Movement is living proof that a culture of democracy among nations contributes to both development and peace," and made clear that the NAM was determined to play a positive and independent role in world affairs.

"I see three main dimensions of our work: the struggle for development; the search for peace; and strengthening the United Nations itself, as an effective mechanism for development and peace," the UN chief said.

BAQAEI:

Army to Begin Production of Laser Missiles

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Iranian Air Force Commander, General Habib Baqaei, said here on Monday that the Islamic Republic of



Iran is capable of planning and constructing any kind of airplane.

Speaking at a press conference on the occasion of the third day of the Sacred Defense Week, the commander said that the Iranian-made training plane will fly for the first time on February 7.

As for the system used in the construction of the plane, Baqaei underlined that it is a combination of systems applied in foreign-made airplanes.

He emphasized that the process of reconstruction and self-sufficiency in the Air Force should be speeded up and that the Air Force Self-Sufficiency Jihad has constructed models of sensitive laser bombs.

He added that the result of the tests made on Laser bombs was positive.

He expressed hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran begins mass production of laser bombs in the near future.

Referring to air-space technology as one which plays a pivotal role in the construction process in industry, Bagaei said that the air force specialists of the Islamic Republic of Iran spare no effort in strengthening this technology.

He further termed the construction of power light bulbs as another key step taken by the Air Force Self-Sufficiency Jihad towards the development of the air force industry.

He reiterated that the light bulbs are used in radar, missile, electronic and communication systems.

Baqaei averred that currently the air force experts are planning the systems used in radar stations and air traffic control centers and that the air force is able to present the systems to other countries.

(Contd from Pg. 7)

THE......

She was the true embodiment of humanity. Hazrat Fatima (SA) was a divine woman who had been shaped into the form of a human being. She is a woman who brought up children in a small house, children whose light shore through the abysses of earth as well as the zenith of the cosmos and from the terrestrial to the celestial spheres."

Study on Impact of Armed Conflicts on Children Up for Discussion

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN -- United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met his expert on the impact of armed conflicts on children, Grace Machel, to express his appreciation for her valuable work, a message faxed yesterday from the UN Information Center here said.

Ms. Machel and her team are behind a study on the treatment of the effects of armed conflict on children as a distinct and priority concern of the international community.

The UN chief has already referred to the study in his annual report on the work of the organization, and will make a statement of the study in the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural (Third) Committee which meets on November 11, 1996 to consider the study.

Boutros-Ghali had been asked by the General Assembly to contribute a study on the subject and Ms. Machel was asked to serve as his expert in the preparation of the study.

Japanese Fighting Dog Mauls His Owner to Death

TOKYO — A large Japanese fighting dog mauled his 64-year-old owner to death Wednesday in the western Japanese city of Kochi.

Yoshitada Uemori was already dead from blood loss when police, alerted by a local resident, found him lying in the street.

When police officers got to the site, the two-and-a-half-year old male Tosa dog, weighing 80 kilograms, was looking aggressive as it stood by Uemori's body.

"So a policeman shot the dog in the head." (AFP)

Monkey Takes a Bite at India's Top Detective

NEW DELHI — India's top detective was bitten by a monkey while jogging at a sprawling garden here.

Joginder Singh, director of the Central Bureau of Investigation, was without his guards when he was attacked by the Simian at the Lodi Garden a week ago.

So there was no one to help him when a monkey enjoying the morning sun got disturbed and pounced on him.

The wound was not deep. He took an anti-infection injection and rushed ... to get back to the job without giving the slightest indication of the bite. (AFP)

EU Ministers to Coordinate Struggle Against Pedophilia

BRUSSELS — European justice and interior ministers were preparing Wednesday for a two-day informal meeting set to be dominated by the struggle against child abduction and abuse in the wake of the grisly discovery of a deadly pedophile ring in Belgium.

Ministers from the 15 EU nations will converge on Dublin for the gathering Thursday and Friday where they will discuss how to coordinate action against grim organizations like the Belgian pedophile group allegedly run by convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux.

"Recent events in Belgium have pushed this theme to the top of the agenda" for the Dublin gathering, said a spokesman for the Irish presidency.

The meeting is due to broach efforts to combat the trafficking of human beings as a whole, but the battle against child abduction and abuse is likely to dominate proceedings as a result of the public outcry over the Dutroux ring.

Dutroux was arrested last month after the bodies of two eight-year-old girls who had been sexually abused were dug up from the garden of one of his properties.

The bodies of two other girls were later found at another property, and in all the convicted pedophile has been charged with the abduction of six girls.

Twelve other people have been indicted in connection with the case which has rocked the judicial system in Belgium and horrified the country. (AFP)

At Least 10 Die in Dutch Dakota Crash

AMSTERDAM — At least 10 people were killed when a Dakota Aircraft crashed into the North Sea on Wednesday afternoon, Dutch ANP newsagency said.

The coastguard told Dutch Television a DC-3 propellor-powered Dakota aircraft carrying 35 passengers had crashed into the North Sea 15 km (10 miles) north-east of the northern Dutch navy town of Den Helder.

Initial reports had stated the plane crashed into the North Sea about 30 miles to the west of Den Helder.

A coastguard spokesman told Reuters the plane came down in water east of the town. (Reuter)

Yeltsin OP Preparation to Take 6-8 Weeks

MOSCOW -- It will take 6-8 weeks to prepare Boris Yeltsin for an operation on his heart, but the surgery should enable the Russian President to work normally, doctors advising the president said on Wednesday.

"After reviewing all facts I am pleased to say that the operation is needed, that it shall provide excellent results," pioneering U.S. heart surgeon Michael Debakey told a news briefing. "After the operation the president will soon be restored to normal."

Interfax, quoting medical sources, said the exact period when the operation would be carried out still had to be determined. It gave no further details.

Yeltsin, who has been in the hospital since September 13, has already agreed to the surgery. He is expected to have a bypass operation, a relatively common procedure which usually involved bypassing damaged arteries with ones from the leg.

ITAR-TASS new agency quoted an informed source in the hospital as saying the meeting lasted about two hours and agreed on an approximate period for the surgery. TASS did not say when it might be. (Reuter)



ARBIL, KURDISH IRAQ (Sept, 24): Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) leader Massoud Barzani (L) is accompanied by Iraqi soldiers in uniform (R) and KDP fighters upon his arrival in the main Kurdish city Arbil. Iraq's new found alliance with the KDP showed signs of strain Tuesday after an influential Iraqi daily voiced its distrust and government officials were abruptly barred from entering Kurdistan.

(AFP PHOTO)

Powerful Earthquake Strikes China's Southwest

BEIJING — A strong earthquake injured 30 people, two seriously, Wednesday in southwest China, toppling houses and cracking walls in an area already hit by a devastating quake earlier this year, officials said.

The 5.7-magnitude quake struck the scenic county of Lijiang in Yunnan Province, about 1,300 miles (2,080 kilometers) southwest of Beijing, at 3:24 a.m (1924 GMT Tuesday), the state-run Xinhua news agency said.

It said the quake occurred in "exactly the same spot" as the magnitude-7 temblor on Feb.3 that killed 255 people and injured 14,000.

"Everything was rocking for about 4 to 5 seconds," said He Weijian, a Lijiang government official. "We felt it quite strongly."

The quake was followed by more than 100 aftershocks measuring up to magnitude 4.6, said a Lijiang seismology official who refused to give his name. (AP)

Ukraine Official Says No Chernobyl Chain Reaction

KIEV — Ukraine's top security official on Wednesday denied a chain reaction had occurred in the Chernobyl Power Plant's ruined fourth reactor but said the cracked "tomb" covering it was the single biggest threat facing the country.

Volodymyr Horbulyn, secretary of the Security Council, said Ukraine's environment minister had spoken out of turn by stating that increased readings of neutron activity last week indicated a nuclear chain reaction within the "sarcophagus".

"I believe Kostenko is mistaken. He is no specialist in nuclear energy," Horbulyn told a news conference, referring to the statement by Minister Yuri Kostenko. "Neither he nor I were there when all this occurred. I am inclinced to be less pessimistic about what is happening in the sarcophagus."

But Horbulyn, who helped develop nuclear missile launchers in Soviet Ukraine, said: "We have to approach this as the biggest threat in Ukraine today — ensuring the safety of the fourth reactor."

A series of other experts issued statements playing down the potential consequences of last week's readings, but stressing that the sarcophagus needed replacing — with Western help — 10 years after the reactor exploded.

Viktor Baryakhtar, vice-president of the Academy of Sciences, told Interfax Ukraine news agency: "The conditions are not present for a thermal explosion. Things inside there are so spread around so it is most unlikely. But I cannot guarantee that this won't happen." (Reuter)

Secrecy Over Sick Klestil Alarms Politicians

VIENNA — Secrecy over the illness of Austrian President Thomas Klestil, unconscious in hospital for three days over the weekend, raised alarm among politicians on Tuesday.

Senior conservative politician Andreas Kohl said it was unacceptable that physicians had not informed government leaders that Klestil's health had deteriorated over the weekend.

"This must never happen again," said Kohl, chief whip of the junior coalition partner, the Rightist People's Party.

Social Democrat Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, who began his first full day as acting head of state on Tuesday, said he knew nothing of the grave developments in the president's state of health until the early hours of Monday morning.

But the chancellor was swift to defend the doctors at Vienna General Hospital, saying they had probably more on their minds trying to determine the nature of Klestil's illness. (Reuter)

Hashimoto Takes Japan's Bid for Permanent Security Council Seat to UN

UNITED NATIONS — Taking Japan's campaign to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council directly to the General Assembly, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Tuesday pledged a more activist role in the UN's governing body.

"Japan, with the endorsement of many countries, is prepared to discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council in accordance with its basic philosophy of the non-resort to the use of force ..." Hashimoto said in a speech to the UN General Assembly.



Japan is seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council to reflect its economic might as talk of reforming the council gains momentum. At the same time, Japan is a candidate in elections later this year for a two-year term among the non-permanent members of the council.

"Until the reform of the Security Council is realized, Japan is determined to contribute to the work of the Security Council for the sake of international peace and security ..." Hashimoto said.

He urged members to act quickly on UN reform. (AP)

Floods and Cholera Kill 28 in Zou Province

COTONOU — Heavy floods and a cholera outbreak have left 28 dead in southern Benin, regional authorities said Wednesday.

A total of 17 people died in the floods in Zou Province, sparked by torrential rains in the north of the country, 10 of them by drowning and seven following a suspected diarrhoea epidemic linked to the flooding. An earlier toll cited last Wednesday gave a figure of seven dead.

The towns of Zadnanado and Ouinhi in the south of Zou Province were the worst affected, with around 15 villages completely submerged and at least 200 people left homeless, according to authorities.

Meanwhile, 191 cases of cholera have been reported in the north of Zou Province with 11 deaths, Julius Garba, head of the regional health service, told AFP. (AFP)

UK's Major Tries to Defuse Latest Row on Europe

LONDON — British Prime Minister John Major tried on Tuesday to draw a line under a row between his ministers over Europe that is threatening to tear the ruling Conservative Party apart.

In a statement from his office and in comments to reporters, Major said the furore over remarks by Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke on Europe's plans to launch a single currency in 1999 was all a big misunderstanding.

"I am quite clear his views were misrepresented in the way in which they have been reported over the last couple of days," said Major, whose six years as prime minister have been bedevilled by divisions in his party over Europe.

He said that after speaking to Clarke, who is in Bermuda for a meeting of Commonwealth finance ministers, the government's position on a single currency remained entirely clear.

Clarke went further, calling reports of a cabinet rift a fabrication. He said he had been merely restating government policy when he told BBC radio on Sunday that it would be "pathetic" for Britain to wait and see how a European single currency developed before deciding whether to join.

"It seems to me the whole thing is a fuss about nothing... the whole thing has been a fabrication," Clarke told reporters.

Major was forced into damage limitation after junior Foreign Office Minister Sir Nicholas Bonsor whipped up passions to fever pitch by accusing Clarke of departing from government policy. (Reuter)

Armenian Security Forces Deploy in Election Row

YEREVAN — Armenian security forces surrounded government buildings Wednesday as thousands of demonstrators rallied for a second day to protest an election tally which gave another term to President Levon Ter-Petrossian.

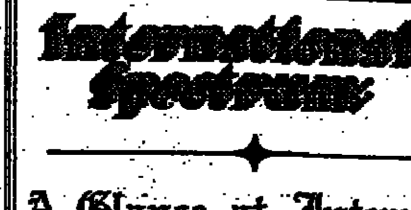
Four members of the electoral commission have defied the rest of the panel by saying an opposition candidate, the nationalist Vazgen Manukian, won the election on Sunday, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The head of the 20-member election commission said Tuesday that Ter-Petrossian was the winner with 52.09 percent of the votes, against 41.07 percent for Manukian.

The dissident members of the panel said Manukian had won around 60 percent. They said the head of the commission released preliminary results "that have nothing to do with the true results of the election."

Thousands of demonstrators who support Manukian rallied in the capital for a second day Wednesday, journalists from the Armenpress news agency said.

Because of the rallies, police beefed up their presence around government buildings. Elite Interior Ministry troops took up positions outside the presidential palace in the capital of this former Soviet republic. (AFP)



A Glance at International Events

TEHRAN TIMES

Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU, SEP. 26, 1996; MAHR 7, 1375; JAMADIAL-AWAL 12, 1417

Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

World News

Wednesday September 18

Izetbegovic First President of Post-War Bosnia



Top Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic has been elected as Bosnia's first post-war head of state, the OSCE said after topping the poll in weekend presidential elections.

Two Blasts Hit Karachi Leaving One Dead



Two bomb blasts hit Pakistan's commercial capital, Karachi, killing one person and injuring three more, officials said.

Kuwait Would Allow U.S. Ground Attack on Iraq

Kuwait Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah has said his country would be willing to allow U.S. troops to use its territory to launch an attack on Iraq if Kuwait were threatened.

Israel Authorizes More Homes for Settlers



Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has authorized construction of 1,800 new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank in the biggest boost to settlement expansion yet by Israel's right-wing government, official said.

Thursday September 19

Turkey Opposes U.S Iraqi Attacks

Turkey's pro-Islamic Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan on Friday made clear his opposition to further U.S. attacks on Iraq as a five-year pact between Ankara and Washington against Baghdad lay in tatters.

Izetbegovic Rules Out Islamic State

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has reached out to his Roman Catholic and Orthodox countrymen by ruling out the creation of an Islamic state in Bosnia despite his Muslim party's dominance of the country's new institutions.

Security Forces Mobilized After Bloody Clashes

Troops and police patrolled the city of Kaduna on Friday, placed on alert to stop further unrest after at least 13 people died in clashes between Muslim activists and the security forces.

Saturday September 21

Doomsday Guru Plotted Subway Attack to Avert Police Raid

A top disciple of doomsday guru Shoko Asahara testified Friday that Asahara planned the deadly nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway last year as a diversionary tactic to keep police from raiding cult headquarters.

Rao Resigns as Congress Chief After Court Ruling



Former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Saturday resigned as president of the historically dominant Congress (I) Party after he was named co-accused in a 100,000-dollar fraud case.

U.S.-Kuwait Joint War Games Near Iraqi Border

More U.S. troop reinforcements landed in Kuwait on Saturday to join desert war games near the Iraqi border, as a senior UN official said Baghdad was respecting an expanded "no-fly" zone ordered by Washington.

Talebani: Barzani Must Break Ties With Saddam

Iraqi Kurd leader Jalal Talebani on Saturday linked a reconciliation with rival Kurdish chief Massud Barzani to a break in Barzani's ties with the government of Saddam Hussein.

Sunday, September 22

Syria Says Its Troop Movements Are Defensive

Syria said on Sunday that its troop movements in Lebanon were defensive measures taken after threats by Israeli leaders.

Bhutto Prays at Brother's Grave Amid Angry Protest

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto prayed at the grave of her slain brother Sunday while in Larkana A mob of 600 boys burned tires, threw stones and vowed to take revenge for death.

Pope Ignores Protest as He Caps French Visit



Pope John Paul II capped a four-day visit to France Sunday with a large open-air mass which has sparked a historical row here, ignoring protests by militant secularists opposed to his trip.

Two Dead, Seven Missing as Typhoon Slams Into Tokyo Region



A powerful typhoon packing winds of up to 217 kilometers (135 miles) per hour slammed into Tokyo area Sunday, leaving two people dead and seven missing.

Monday, September 23

Fifty Bodies Recovered From Latest Srebrenica Mass Grave



International experts working at a mass grave site in eastern Bosnia linked to the fall of Srebrenica have recovered 50 bodies so far, an official here said Monday.

New Clashes Erupt Between Taleban, Government Forces



New clashes erupted Monday between the Taleban militia and Afghan government forces on a national highway east of Kabul leading to the Pakistan border, Afghan sources said.

Greek PM Simitis Starts Work to Form New Cabinet

Greek Socialist Premier Costas Simitis, who won a fresh four-year mandate inelections, begins putting together his new cabinet on Monday an official said major ministries could change hands.

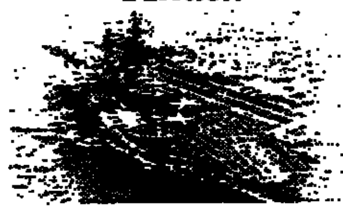
Astronaut: Goodbye Space Station, Laboratory, Treadmill



Astronaut Shannon Lucid finally said goodbye Monday to the orbital laboratory she loved, the tredmill she couldn't stand and life board Russia's Mir Space Station.

Tuesday, September 24

Iraq Accuses U.S. of Preparing New Attack



Iraq accused the United States of massig troops in Kuwait in order to launch a new attack amid at setting up a military base in southern Iraq.

Local News

Wednesday September 18

Refugee Camp in Iran Shelled by Iraqi, KDP Forces

Iraqi Kurdish refugees were killed or wounded in Siranband Refugee Camp in northwestern Iran by artillery shelling of the joint forces of Iraqi troops and Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

Women Expected to Be Further Active in Religious, Scientific Areas



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said that women are required to perform religious activities, acquire scientific knowledge and familiarize themselves with current social issues.

Thursday, September 19

Dedicated Iranian People Deserve Further Govt. Services

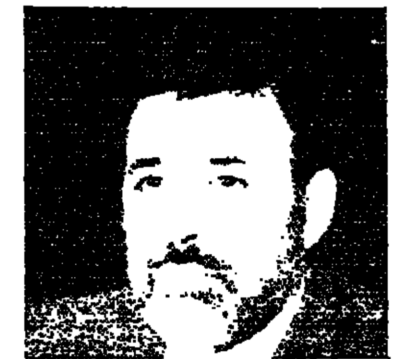
The leader of the Islamic Revolution Grand Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on the last day of his visit to West Azarbaijan province addressing the executive officials in Orumieh on Friday, stated that in light of the Almighty God's favor bestowed on the Iranian people and the Islamic government, the officials should increase their services to the nation and forgo their personal interests so as to be endowed with more Almighty's grace and blessing.

Tension Between Sudan and Uganda Not in Egypt's Interests

Spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry here on Wednesday deplored the anxiety as demonstrated by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak over Iran's mediation between Sudan and Uganda.

Vaezi Dismisses Allegations on Iran's Involvement in Internal Affairs of Iraq

The visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister



Mahmoud Vaezi dismissed the accusation made by certain Iraqi officials in alleging Iran for meddling in the Iraqi internal affairs as "an old trick and ineffective method" of Iraqi rulers

Friday, September 20

Ruhani: People's Love for Leader, Main Asset of the Country

Iranian people's love and their wholehearted welcome in receiving their revered Vali-e-Amr, Grand Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of Islamic Revolution should be taken into account as the biggest asset for the country.

Saturday, September 21

OIC Shows Solidarity With Iran

The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has expressed its solidarity with Iran vis-a-vis U.S. sanctions.

Sunday, September 22

Leader Underlines Importance of Prayer

The Leader of Islamic Revolution, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei, in a message to the Sixth Congress on Prayer held in Zanjan, Zanjan Province, underscored the importance of prayer and called on the people and officials to pay further attention in this regard.

Monday, September 23

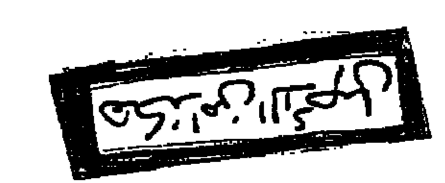
Velayati Underlines Iran's Commitment to Anti-Terrorism Campaign, Nuclear Disarmament

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, addressing the 51st General Assembly reiterated Iran's stand on terrorism, nuclear disarmament, regional security and the current situation in northeastern Iraq.

Tuesday September 24

President Receives Message From Kuwaiti Emir

The visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Communications, Electricity and Water Jassem Mohammad al-Aoun submitted President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani a message from Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah.



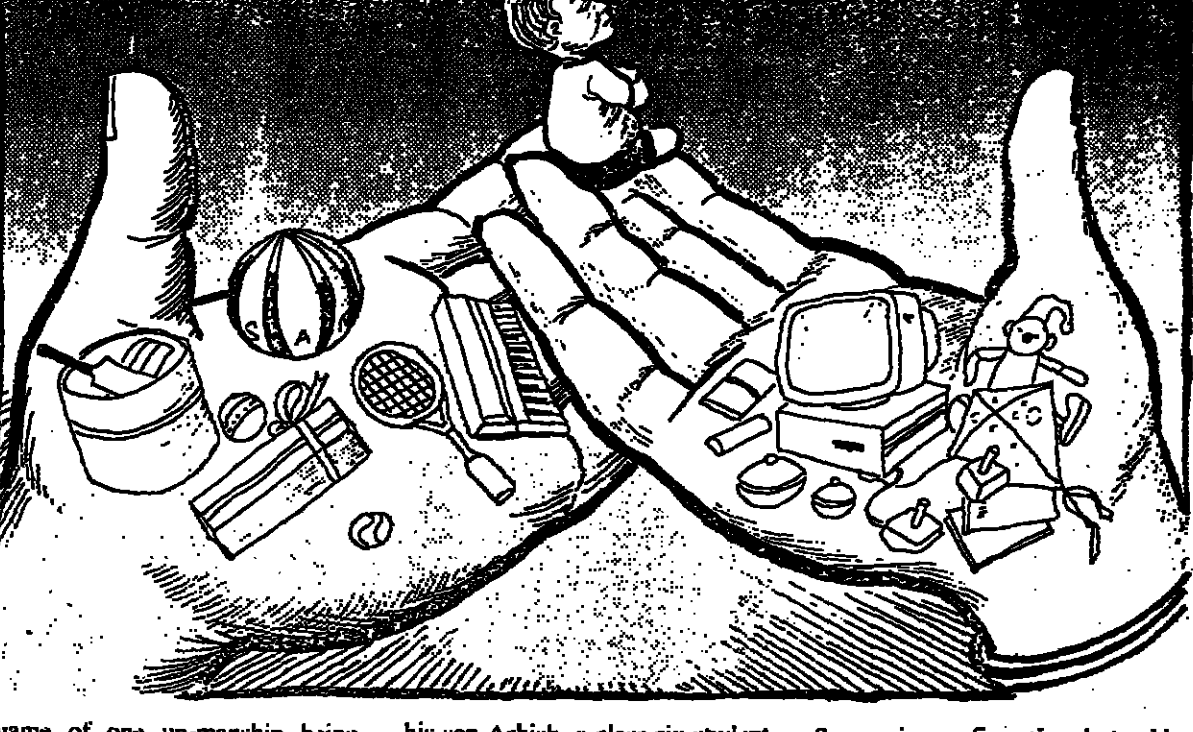
Why Do Parents Overindulge?

While busy parents assuage their guilt by inundating their children with gifts, the kids ignore such overtures as they hanker for attention

- *Kids in the Bhatia household have all their battery-operated toys in a state of readiness, courtesy Mr. Bhatia who states matter of factly, "You never know when the kids may feel like playing with anyone of them". But much to his disappointment his children are quite happy playing with a steel katori and spoon singing Dum Maro Dum.*
- *The roller skates that Mr. Verma bought for his four-year-old son on his last trip abroad six months ago are still nestling in their original packaging. Son Varun has not shown the slightest inclination to examine them, let alone use them. "Of course Varun will use them some time in future. After all how will he learn to skate if he doesn't have proper roller skates?" asks Mr. Verma.*
- *Thomas Matthew pulled quite a few strings besides dishing out a lumpsum to get the membership of a prestigious South Delhi Club, because he is very keen on his children learning to swim. It's two years since then and the kids are yet to take their plunge.*

These are but a few instances of indulgent parents who go overboard exhibiting their parental instincts, for cases of parents piling gifts, toys, books, clothes and other items of their own interest on their children are umpteen.

So why do parents go into these orgies of shall we say "overparenting"? "Their childhood desires and unfulfilled dreams find expression (even if vicariously) in overindulging their children," says Girija Wasan, the counselor at St. Francils de Sales. "And this instinct surfaces in the form of expensive gifts, tolerating their children's tantrums, giving in to each and every demand of theirs and not least, there is this game of one up-manship being played vis-a-vis friends, relations and neighborhood children," she adds.



Very much a family man, the glob-trotting businessman, Anup Kundra brings home the most expensive gifts and equipment for his son Ashish, a class six student of St. Columbas. "Why not?" asks Anup "My child must get the best. Frankly, some of these gadgets, by the time they get to India, are outdated and if I can afford it why shouldn't my son stay ahead of others?" Nods wife Seema in confirmation but adds ruefully, "He gets so much stuff for the kids that the initial euphoria of possessing rare items is soon over.

"No amount of expensive gifts or books can compensate for parental love," opines Deepa Grover, headmistress Springdales.

Sheena and Sunand Savory say that they indulge their only son Suhail because they wish to help him escape every kind of hurt — be it physical, mental or emotional.

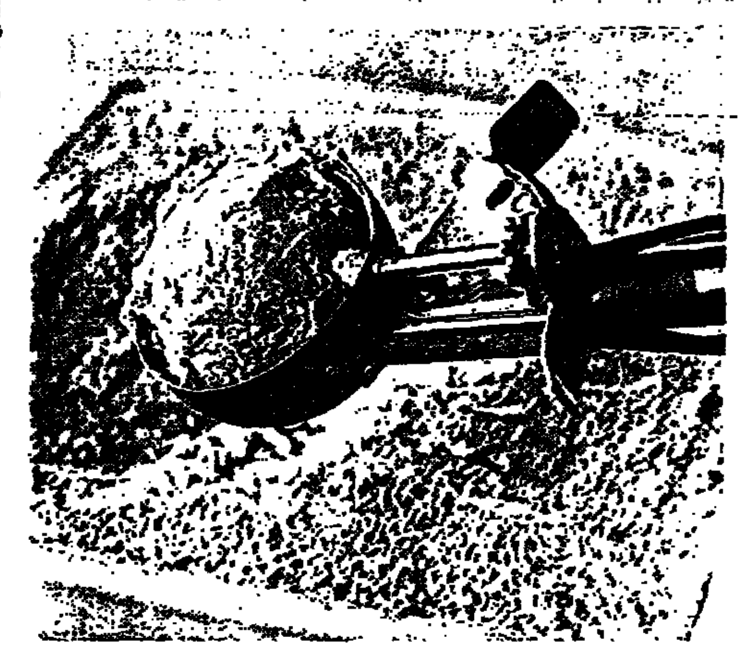
"Parents do overindulge," confirms Dr. K.K. Khothari, a leading psychiatrist of Delhi, "but they show their indulgence in all the wrong things. With each other in hiking their career graphs, each tries to beat the other in appeasing the neglected child by bringing home more and more expensive gifts. What they do not realize is that more than the material goods, what the child needs is emotional security, which the parents have no time for."

"What we fail to realize is that children actually resent this over-indulgence, as over the years, they grow to regard it as interference, adds Grover.

"And it is neither indulgence nor interference but involvement that the child needs most," asserts Dr. Kothari.

(Courtesy the Times of India)

Entertaining in Style



Coffee Ice Cream

You will need...

2 eggs, separated
2 oz. icing sugar, sieved
2 tablespoons coffee essence
1/4 pint double cream

Preparation time
15 minutes

Whisk egg whites until very stiff, then gradually whisk in icing sugar. Whisk egg yolks and coffee essence together and whisk gradually into egg whites. Lightly whip cream and fold into coffee mixture.

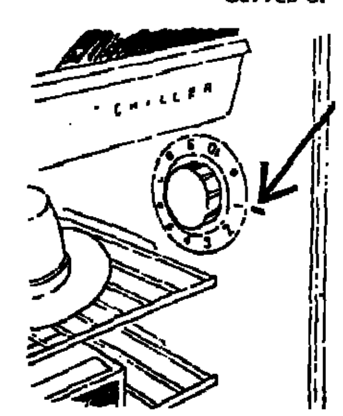
Pour into 1 1/2-pint ice cube tray or shallow tin and freeze. This ice cream does not need any further beating.

To vary, fold in with the cream 2 oz. finely chopped walnuts, or 2 oz. lightly crushed meringue, or 2 oz. crushed macaroons.

Serves 6.

QUICK TIP

It is best to turn the refrigerator to coldest setting one hour before freezing ice cream. Turn back to normal setting once ice cream has frozen.



Pain in the Neck

Desk-workers seem to suffer from neck aches more than people who have physical jobs, like farmers, laborers or sportspersons. Why is a comfortable office job more tiring for the neck than hard labor? The neck is not meant to stay in a set position for hours, say specialists, and it does not like static work. When the neck muscles contract to hold the head in a fixed position, they produce a waste acid. Over the hours, this acid collects internally and causes the ache. That is why people tied to desk, computer or machine all day end up with a pain in the neck by evening. Swiveling the neck from time to time brings in fresh blood, washes away the waste acid and eased the ache.

Keeping the neck 'out of line' is another reason for cricks, cramps and stiffness. The neck is actually balancing a pretty heavy load — the head, which weighs about five kilos. It can do the job comfortably only if it is kept in line with the spine. The neck is capable of turning in six different directions. Apparently, that is not enough for many of us, because we force the neck into unnatural positions. It is no surprise then that so many people need ointments and neck massage. If you are one of them, see if you are one of them, see if you are guilty of mistreating your neck in any of the following ways:



* Lying down and bending the neck at an awkward angle to read or watch TV.

* Keeping books low in the lap and reading in a hang-neck position. Hold reading material at eye-level.

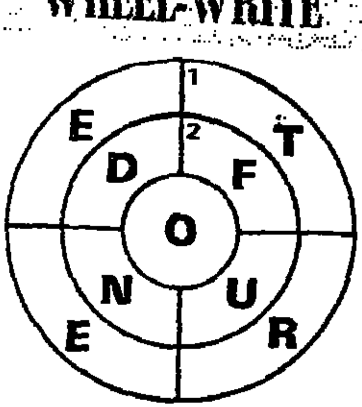
* Sleeping with a pillow that bends the neck upwards or lets it hang downward. Ideally, a pillow should help you keep the head in a straight line extending from the spine.

* Making the neck do heavy duty it should not be doing. Some common examples: doing sit-ups and crunches by pulling on the neck instead of using the abdominal muscles. Holding telephone between neck and shoulder. Putting strap-bags around the neck or letting shoulder-bags-pull on muscles between the neck and shoulder.

* Sticking your neck out to read computer screen or keeping screen to one side instead of straight ahead. This is guaranteed to give you a painful crick in the neck.

(Courtesy the Sunday Review)

Answers to Last Week's WHEEL-WRITE



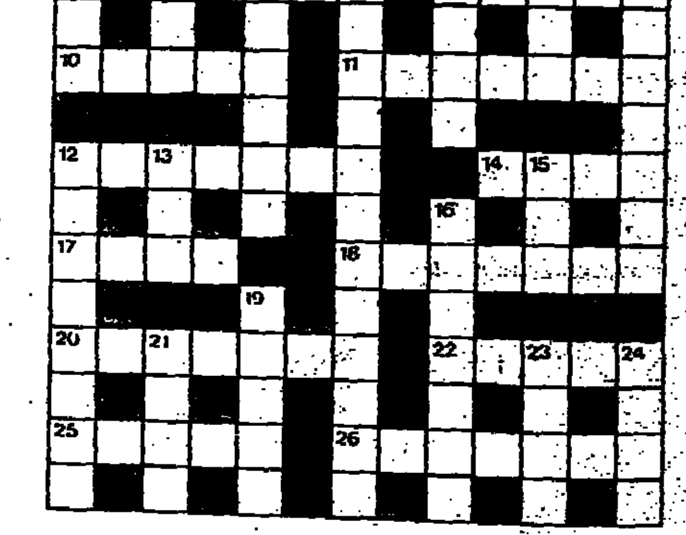
QUICKIE

ACROSS

8. Outline (7)
9. Old anaesthetic (5)
10. Juicy gourd (5)
11. Dampen (7)
12. Cause anxiety (7)
14. Competent (4)
17. Work chum (4)
18. Syrupy medicine (7)
20. Putting on trial (7)
22. Ingrained dirt (5)
25. Firearm (5)
26. Barren (7)

DOWN

1. Floating muck (4)
2. Indigo (4)
3. Clue (7)
4. One who studies crooks (13)
5. Commence (5)
6. Sharpen (4)
7. Future queen? (8)
12. Graveyard (8)
13. Hair-tidy (3)
15. Wager (3)
16. Suppressed giggle (7)
19. Alluring mermaid (5)
21. Couch (4)
23. Part of the eye (4)
24. Level (4)



Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Turkey

The World's Biggest Bazaar

THE OLDEST AND LARGEST covered marketplace in the world is in Istanbul at the center of the old city. A giant labyrinth with about 60 streets and more than 3,000 shops, the Covered Bazaar is a unique sight every visitor to Istanbul must see. The huge complex resembling a town under a roof grew to its present size over a long period of time. The 15th century bazaar, a structure of two parts with thick walls and a series of domes, was gradually expanded in the following centuries by roofing in the adjoining streets, thus forming the peculiar Oriental marketplace.



The domes and roofs of the Covered Bazaar in Istanbul.

In the past, the Covered Bazaar was the business and crafts center of the city of Istabul where members of different guilds clustered around certain streets. These guilds by tradition, had very strict rules and ethics governing business practice. Such rules dictated, for example, that lodge members be totally alert with regard to quality of merchandise they produced and sold, and forbade them to pass any defective items to the customer knowingly. All sorts of valuable fabrics, jewellery, weapons, and antiques were sold by merchants from families which for generations dealt in the same trade. The trust so generated in the public would even lead some customers to deposit their savings with the tradesmen of the Covered Bazaar, solely on their word of honor, to be used in business for profit, the way one buys stock shares today.

The Covered Bazaar of Istanbul was badly damaged during the earthquake towards the end of the 19th century and by a number of big fires afterwards, and although the structures were restored to what they had been, other characteristics of the bazaar could not be. Consequently, the Covered Bazaar lost its status as the major business center of Istanbul and continued its existence during the last decades as a large and nostalgic marketplace, appealing especially to those interested in Turkish handicrafts.

The change in the identity of the Covered Bazaar is evidenced by the changes in its streets. Nowadays, almost every street is a conglomerate of shops dealing in the trade of different goods, and the street names like Yorgancilar (quilt makers), Terlikciler (slipper makers) and Fesciler (fez makers) have come to be street names only. The coupld of exceptions to this are the main street of the Covered Bazaar where there is a clustering of jewellers and one of the streets opening to it, occupied entirely by goldsmiths.

Another change is that the shops in the Covered Bazaar today, many of them small, do not offer fixed or definite prices to customers, and a sale is made at the true worth of an item only if the buyer is good at bargaining. A chance to bargain over the price of an *item—something new for many* foreigners—and the sheer quantity of the works of Turkish artisans displayed in the shops do not appeal to some visitors but the majority prefer to spend their money and limited shopping time more efficiently. This has led during the 1970s to the emergence of large, modern stores near the main entrance of the bazaar. Today, the Covered Bazaar is more of a tourist attraction with its romantic historical outlook, its lively atmosphere unique with shopkekepers personally and adamantly invited passersby into their shops, its continuous hum and the flow of people through its streets. MOre serious shopping for Turkish carpets and jewellery as well as handicrafts such as silver, copper, brass and bronze gift items, ceramics, onyx, leatherware and other souvenirs is often done at the new stores which adhere to contemporary business standards to the point of providing certificates of quality and origin for their wares, and offering guaranteed delivery shipment to any address abroad. (Courtesy of *Istanbul*, 20th Ed., 1988.)



A view of one of the bazaar's main streets.

Travelogue

Sind's Antiquity

Facing the great Arabian Sea on the south a few degrees above the Tropic of Cancer, the Hindu province of Punjab on the north, Baluchistan Province on the west and the Indian desert on the east, Sind is one of mother nature's treasure trove. Relatively young as a nation, having gained its independence only two years after the last World War, Sind has made its presence in the earliest annals of civilizations, dating as far back as some 3,000, 4,000 or 5,000 years (depending on which travel guide you refer to).

The majestic Indus River which cuts vertically through the entire province was a witness to the ancient and highly developed Indus Valley civilization. This was contemporary to the better-known civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. For this reason, Sind derived its name from the River Indus—the largest of three great rivers.

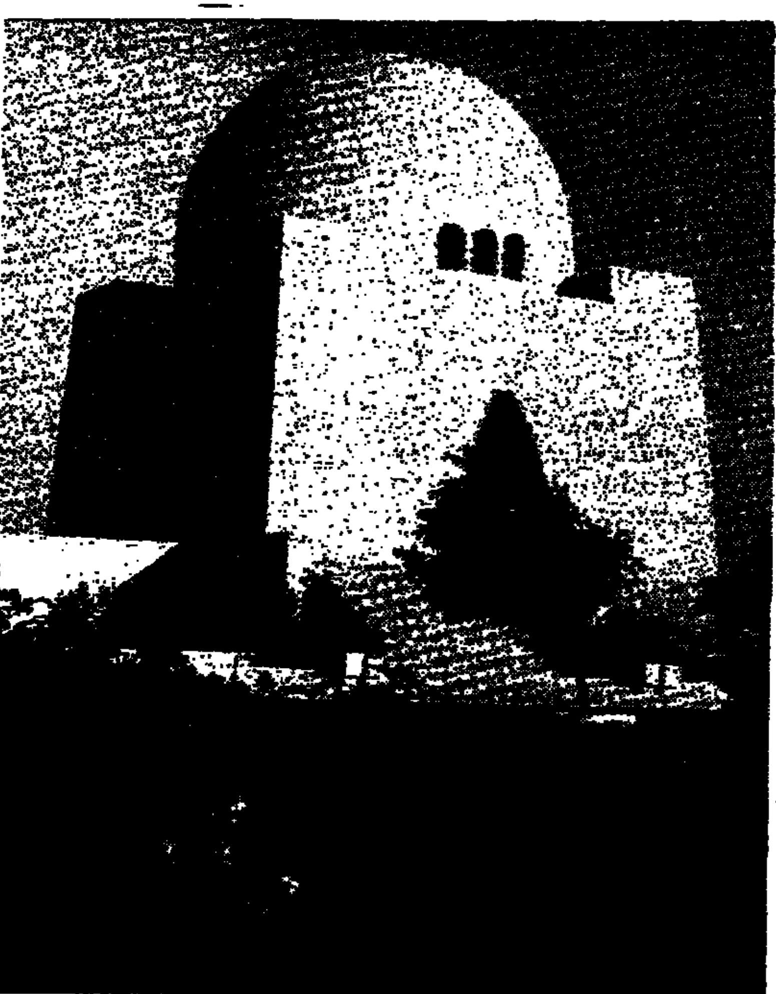
Little is known, however, of the origins of this civilization despite the immensity of the size of archeological findings and excavations made in various parts of the province. The only thing that could be confirmed about it was its mysterious decline around 1500 B.C.

In 326 B.C., Sind gained additional prominence when it had an unexpected royal visitor from Macedonia in the person of Alexander the Great. Although this king of Macedonia only made a brief appearance in the province, before his death in the year 323 B.C. one of his trusted men, Nearchus, was known to have found the vital sea route to the Asian civilizations via the Indus.

In the next century, between 3rd and 2nd B.C. Buddhism found its way into the province when it became part of the Mauryan Empire which expanded and consolidated its control over the north of India. Hinduism made its impact in the province a little later in the 6th and 8th century A.D.

Islamic Pakistan today had its beginnings in the Middle Ages. Muhammad bin Qasim, who made an Arab expedition in 711 A.D., is greatly accredited to have introduced Islam to Pakistan when he led his armies to conquer the province of Sind. Centuries after, the province saw an uninterrupted flow of wanderers, refugees and invaders of all sorts such as the Mongol hordes, Kalhoras and Talpurs.

The British had their firm hand on the territory in 1843 when they successfully crushed the Talpurs' revolt. The British took control of the territory until 1947, when predominantly Muslim Pakistan was separated from India after a long and arduous struggle.

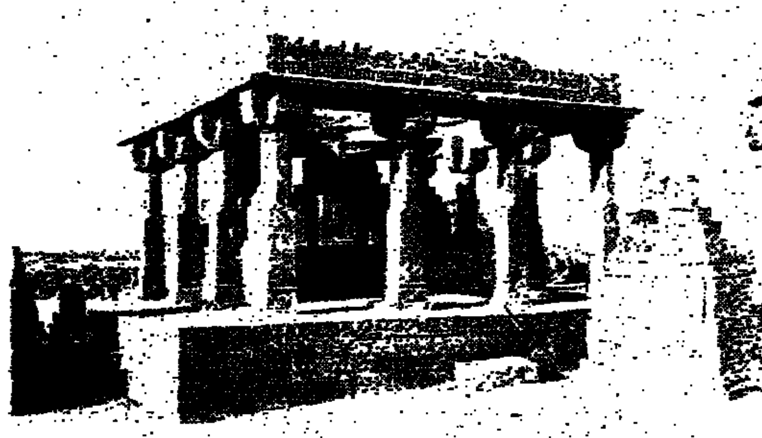


Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum.

For the adventurous traveler, a visit to Sind should originate from Karachi, Pakistan's commercial and industrial center. Situated near the mouth of the Indus River, on the shores of the Arabian Sea, Karachi is a city of contrasts where old and new buildings and narrow alley-ways are in abundance.

Referred to today as the "City of Lights" because of its nuclear power station, Karachi's best selling points are its bazaars, architecture and coastline. The best buys from the bazaars are exquisite tribal jewelleries and traditional Sindhi fabrics.

Of the various places of interest in the city, one should not miss the "Mazaar" or the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Father of Pakistan. Entirely built of marble, the "Mazaar" is the most revered landmark in the city. For most Sindhis, religion occupies a primordial place in their lives.



Centuries-old tombs attest to an ancient civilization.

The coastline is at its best at sunset. It is also the time to go out into the harbor for "crabbing." If you're lucky enough, you can even witness giant sea turtles laying eggs—just like in the East Coast of Malaysia—or ride a colorfully clad camel on the shoreline.

Thatta, about 98 kilometers east of Karachi, should be the next natural destination if you're going by land. Capital of Sind from the 14th-17th century, Thatta's main attraction is the Makli Hill or Little Mecca. With about a million graves scattered over an area of some 10 square kilometers, Makli Hill rightly deserves the reputation of being the world's largest necropolis.

Besides the tombs and graves, a visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque will be worth the while. Also called Jami Mosque, this structure has the striking blue-glazed tiles, typically used in the province, and alluring mosaic work.

A visit to Pakistan, much less to Sind Province, will be of little worth without including Moenjodaro. Rediscovered by British archeologist Sir John Marshall in 1922, Moenjodaro's striking relics include a great public bath which is believed to be used for rituals; a rich residential area which has got high and dark walls; a highly sophisticated drainage system which has got two outlets, one for water and the other for waste; and, skeletons in contorted positions. A visit to the archaeological museum adjacent to the excavation site should give an explorer a good grounding on Sind's archaelogical findings.

After having seen the relics of the great Indus Valley civilization, one could not help but be awed by its great mysteries that remain unknown to the living *men of our century.* Those who have been to Sind could only keep on coming back to the scene! (Courtesy of *Changi Airport Magazine*, September 1990.)

Brain Teaser

Initial Reaction

B	U	F	F	A	L	O	M
A	I	N	I	R	E	E	B
N	I	A	T	I	R	B	E
A	S	D	N	O	B	R	R
N	B	R	I	S	T	O	L
A	B	A	C	H	K	W	I
I	R	B	R	I	A	N	N
S	E	L	T	A	E	B	T

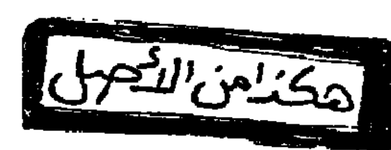
Find one word beginning with B for each subject category listed below. Tick them off as you find them and put a line through the words on the grid. Words are spelt out across, down, upwards, and backwards, but not diagonally. Some letters will be used twice, and remember that all words begin with the same letter. Unused letters, from left to right and from top to bottom, will refer to an item of clothing.

SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH B...

*COUNTRY *COLOR *FRUIT *BOY'S NAME *BRITISH CITY *CAPITAL CITY *COMPOSER *DRINK *POP GROUP *FILM CHARACTER *LAND MAMMAL.

Answers to last week's WORD BUILDER:

Age, anger, are, ear, earn, era, gear, nag, near, rag, rage, ran, rang, range.



IMF Accused of Double Standards in Granting Loans

The International Monetary Fund has been accused of using its loan scheme to help the Russian president defeat a resurgent communist challenge in the recent runoff election.


YELTSIN

Washington: The International Monetary Fund is moving to strike down suggestions that it bent over backwards to help the Russian president defeat a resurgent communist challenge in the runoff election in July 1996.

But suspicions linger, fueled by the fund's own staffers, published reports, and Russian officials. Observers warn the hint of double standards may come to haunt the IMF in its dealings with other countries.

There is no doubt that 'a weaker government off the geopolitical screen would have been treated differently,' Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Harvard Institute for International Development and one-time economic policy adviser to Moscow, told IPS.

Sachs was referring to charges that the IMF failed to treat Moscow with its characteristic strictness when the terms of the second-largest loan it has ever granted were violated — charges the institution strenuously denies.

In February, the IMF approved a three-year, $10.2 billion loan to Russia — second only to the 1995 'bailout' loan to Mexico. The IMF credit also cleared the way for loans from France and Germany.

Before the loan, opinion polls gave Yeltsin an 8% approval rating. With the loan in hand, he doled out an undisclosed sum on the campaign trail and, by some accounts, committed his government to as much as $10 billion in spending promises. On 3 July, he defeated Zyuganov 54% to 40%.

'They made a risky call, but they were lucky and it turned out well,' Sachs said of the IMF's loan operation.

After the elections, the IMF asserted its disciplinarian role, withholding a loan instalment. It now faces a litmus test, say observers: Will it continue to hold Moscow's feet to the fire of fiscal and monetary discipline it has now relit, or revert to the leniency it emphatically denies having practiced in the lead-up to the polls?

Some indication is expected to emerge from an IMF mission to Moscow and talks in London, both scheduled for August 1996. Senior officials in Yeltsin's cabinet, the Central Bank, and the finance and economics ministries have told journalists in the past few weeks that they fully expect the IMF to keep coming through with credit instalments.

The Russian loan was tied to a number of strict monetary and fiscal targets. IMF officials insist they have been serious about compliance all along. Hence, the fund imposed monthly performance targets rather than its standard quarterly ones.

The record suggests the targets were interpreted as flexibly as possible by both borrower and lender, according to The economist.

In June, Yeltsin ordered the Central Bank to transfer $1 billion to the federal budget to pay for some of these promises, which included releasing back pay and pensions to state workers. His action sparked fears that inflation would rise and forced the bank to tighten credit.

IMF managing director Michel Camdessus insisted that Russia was 'up to date on performance criteria'.

His own staff may not have been so sure.

'As early as in April and May, visiting IMF teams realized what a heavy blow Yeltsin's (preelection) spending had dealt to the economy, but they knew how much was at stake in this election,' Russian economist Alexander Bekker told IPS in July 1996.

A comparison of official Russian public finance figures with original targets set in the February IMF agreement reveals that Moscow lost no time in exceeding the agreed-upon limit for the budget deficit.

The IMF target for April was 4.8% of gross domestic product (GDP). Even by Moscow's conservative reckoning, which does not take into account it interest payments on high-yielding treasury bills, the budget deficit reached 7.0% of GDP that month, *The Economist* reported.

Falling revenues and swollen election spending pushed the deficit to just over 6% of GDP in the first half of this year, well above the IMF's 4% target for the year, according to others in the financial press.

John Odling-Smee, director of the department that oversees the IMF's Russia operations, denied any leniency toward Moscow. 'It is quite common, particularly under a tight and ambitious program of the kind designed with the Russian authorities, to modify certain parameters,' Odling-Smee said in a letter to *The Economist*.

Such statements, diplomats here say, seem consistent with assessments of the loan package as having considerable — and exceptional — leeway built into it.

IMF officials are standing their ground, however. 'Rather than turn a "blind eye" to Russian economic policy, the IMF has continued to work very closely with Russian policy-makers,' Odling-Smee said. 'Indeed, the intensity of the IMF's involvement with Russia may be unprecedented.'

The nature of that involvement has been called into question by Russian official themselves. 'Book-keeping tricks were pulled on both sides,' one Russian minister told The Economist.

At the time of the elections, commentators in the financial press were predicting the fund would get tough and 'look for results' from Moscow after the polls closed. This appears to be what happened.

IMF official on 22 July withheld a loan tranche, or instalment, of some $330 million pending improved tax collection. Some corporations did not pay their taxes until they were convinced the Communists had lost. Others were granted exemptions by Yeltsin.

CAMDESSUS

To the apparent embarrassment of the fund, the July tranche delay came a mere week after IMF first deputy managing director Stanley Fischer told journalists in Moscow, 'What happened here was little short of miraculous.' Russia had come 'very close' to meeting targets, Fischer said. Moscow had not 'exceeded 'adjusted' ceilings on budget deficit and any overstepping of monetary targets was 'slight'.

He was confident that Moscow would continue to meet the loan's requirements, painful as some of them were.

The financial results may, for now, be less important than the political ones. As Sachs put it, 'Yeltsin won the election, and the world is a better place for it.'

It is widely accepted that, simply by its willingness to approve the loan and make disbursements during an election year, the IMF acted to thwart resurgent communism and nationalism and boost capitalism some five years after the Soviet Union's collapse. The extent to which it was pushed to do so by its major shareholders remains subject to debate.

If the IMF bowed to shareholder demands, it was not the first time. In 1987, Germany and the United States 'urged the IMF to lend to Egypt, a cornerstone of (U.S.) Middle East diplomacy, on terms that some fund officials considered too generous (one resigned over the issue)'. *The Economist* stated.

The message to developing countries is clear, diplomatic sources say: If you don't have strategic importance to leverage against your creditors, then you must do their bidding irrespective of the political consequences you stand to suffer.

(Third World Network Features)

London Dealers Wary ahead of U.S. Rate Decision

LONDON — Commodity dealers were wary on Tuesday ahead of a meeting of the U.S. Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) which was widely expected to recommend raising interest rates.

"The expectations are for a modest rise. I think it's been built into the price so we're not exactly waiting with bated breath," a gold bullion dealer said.

Gold and silver popped higher on a spate of short covering, but dealers said the market was wary ahead of the FOMC meeting.

Bullion fixed at $382.30 an ounce, versus $381.00 on Monday afternoon. Silver also edged up slightly after hitting an 18-month low of $4.9450 last week.

Several dealers said a quarter-point rise in U.S. rates had already been priced into the market.

The test for gold would be how it responded to wall street's reaction to a rate rise. Speculative investment funds were likely to start selling if the price crept higher.

"They'll be quite happy to sell silver at $5.00 and gold at $383.50-$384.00," a dealer said.

On the London Metal Exchange (LME), copper broke above the key $1,900 level as traders bought cash metal in response to the exchange's warehouses stocks falling more than forecast.

Most of the other base metals ticked higher in sympathy.

Three months copper firmed about $40 a ton after stocks fell by 8,825 tons, nearly 6,000 tons more than expected.

Many analysts had been expecting copper to remain under pressure after slipping under $1,900 in late trading on Friday and losing ground again on Monday.

Aluminium edged up around $8.00 from Monday's depressed closing levels to about $1,400.

"I've seen some good consumer buying, but that doesn't mean it won't go lower," a floor trader said.

Robusta coffee futures recovered from over two-year lows of $1,475 a ton on Monday to just over $1,500.

"It's pretty much an unexpected little rally. "There's no special news," said one trader.

Cocoa was quiet and ended off five pounds at 984. Sugar lost ground when New York selling overwhelmed earlier support. The December contract fell $0.80 to $329.50 by 1620 GMT.

European grains prices were mostly lower led by wheat prices after rising in response to higher French prices last week.

Barley prices, especially in Britain, weakened on expectations that a recent 1.4 million ton order from Saudi Arabia would be met largely from France.

U.S. soybean futures were lower also in response to improved growing conditions and the weakness spilled over to other grains futures in the Chicago and Kansas City markets. (Reuter)

Singapore's Banking Sector to Remain Positive

HONG KONG — The outlook for Singapore banks in the second half of 1996 remains positive, international investment bank Salomon Brothers said Wednesday.

In a report issued by its Hong Kong regional headquarters, Salomon Brothers tipped the Development Bank of Singapore and Overseas Union Bank as the best performers with a recommendation to "buy."

"The lending business, which enjoyed a 20 percent year-to-year growth in the first half of 1996, should moderate only slightly," the report said.

It said the Singapore bank sector's net interest income growth would remain stable at 14 to 15 percent per annum in 1996 and 1997, notwithstanding some slow-down in loan growth.

(AFP)

Business Highlights

Compiled From Dispatches

WASHINGTON —Policy-making members of the U.S. Federal Reserve began meeting to consider whether to raise interest rates for the first time in 1-1/2 years amid an atmosphere of intense political and economic scrutiny.

The meeting opened at 1300 GMT and a decision on whether or not to change rates was expected to be announced at about 1815 GMT.

LONDON — German and French stocks recovered their composure to close higher, but London lost ground on interest rate concerns after a bullish start.

All share and currency markets were to some degree holding their breath ahead of a decision, due after the end of European trading, from a key U.S. monetary policy-making meeting.

MOSCOW —Fears over President Boris Yeltsin's health drove down Russian stocks and bonds for the second day but prices ended off lows after a late rally, dealers said.

Leading stocks such as Mosenergo and Rostelekom ended the day more than six percent lower than on Monday, having fallen more than eight percent in early trade.

ROME — Prime Minister Romano Prodi, trying to push through a tough 1997 budget, said Italy would face economic ruin if it failed to be among the first countries to join a planned single European currency.

"There can no longer be a situation where some arrive first and others later, but there will be a large number of countries that enter right away," Prodi told Italian reporters at the end of a two-day trip to the Netherlands.

PARIS —Europe's plans for currency union may steal the limelight at international finance talks in Washington this weekend amid questions about what it will mean for world economic growth and the dollar.

Europe's finance ministers hold talks with the Group of Seven (G7) rich nations this weekend confident their plans for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) in 1999 are firmly on track.

MADRID —Spain will prepare an austere 1997 budget that makes it a contender for the European single currency launch, but experts fear that much-needed structural reforms promised by the government may be scant.

The Spanish debt market seems convinced the government will deliver a stringent budget to Parliament on Monday, and, consequently, the spread versus German bunds has narrowed to 1.89 percentage points from 2.46 at the end of August.

FRANKFURT — German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told Germans they needed to be more entrepreneurial and urged young people not immediately to seek the easy option of working within a large organization.

Speaking at a Frankfurt conference for German small and medium companies, the famous "Mittelstand", Kohl said "a new culture" was needed in which self-employed and entrepreneurs could flourish.

LONDON —A fresh bout of bickering about Europe within Britain's ruling Conservative Party set markets on edge, but analysts said any jitters would prove to be shortlived.

The latest bout of infighting broke out after chancellor of the exchequer Kenneth Clarke said at the weekend Britain could lose its chance to sign up for a single European currency if it "dithered" about entering at the start.

BRUSSELS — Wary of seeing France's embattled credit Lyonnais getting any more subsidies, the European Commission said it would react quickly to an expected new French fresh request to rescue the bank.

European competition commissioner Karel van Miert was to hold a news conference on the issue on Wednesday in expectation that new "information" on a proposed bailout was to be provided by Paris.

BRUSSELS —The European Union is softening its opposition to a U.S.-Japan semiconductor alliance in order to press for progress on a wider international technology agreement, EU sources said.

They said the European Commission — which negotiates EU trade policy — was backing down from an ultimatum that insists on EU inclusion in the chip alliance.

NEW YORK — Consumer confidence in the economy held virtually steady in September, dipping just below a six-year high that was realized after strong gains in July and August, a private research group reported Tuesday.

The conference board's consumer confidence index edged down by 0.2 point to 111.8 this month. The index jumped 5 points in August and 6.9 points in July after remaining flat for much of the previous year, the business research group said. Many economists had expected a September decline to about 107.

Consumer confidence is watched closely for indications of consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economy.

The conference board also reported that consumers' opinion of current business conditions was down 0.5 point at 129.0, and expectations for the next six months were virtually steady at 100.4, up 0.1, both components were significantly higher than a year ago, and expectations for future business conditions were the highest since March 1990.

NEW YORK — American Express Co. said Tuesday it plans to file legal complaints in four areas of Latin America and Puerto Rico against visa for allegedly engaging in anti-competitive activities.

The New York-based Financial Services Concern alleges visa prohibited banks that issued visa cards from issuing American Express cards.

"Visa is attempting to eliminate competition among global card systems by limiting banks' and consumers' choice," American Express said.

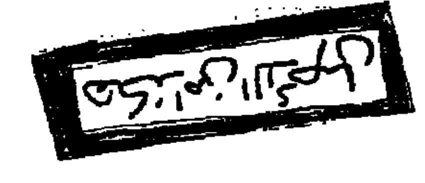
A spokesman for visa wasn't immediately available for comment.

American Express said it plans to file legal complaints in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, and an antitrust case in Puerto Rico.

SAN RAMON, California —Chevron Corp.'s Chevron Chemical Co. unit formed a joint venture with Saudi Industrial Venture Capital Group to build and operate a $650 million petrochemical plant in Saudi Arabia.

In a press release, Chevron said Tuesday it has a 50 percent stake in the joint venture, called Saudi Chevron Petrochemical L.L.P.

Chevron said construction of the plant, which will manufacture benzene and cyclohexane, is scheduled for mid-1999 completion.



Fans Flock to Germany's Cult-Like Wagner Festival

BAYREUTH, Germany -- Fearing he might be forgotten by future generations, 19th century German composer Richard Wagner built a vast theater and founded a festival devoted exclusively to his own music.

It worked. Wagner not only laid the foundations of a cult in his own honor, he also established the Bayreuth Festival which has become one of the world's most sought-after cultural events with a waiting list of thousands.

Visitors who want to be guaranteed success must apply for tickets about six months before the festival, when tickets are allocated. Most requests are placed on a waiting list of thousands where some wait for up to 15 years.

Americans, Japanese and French fans head the international contingent of Wagnerian devotees who head to this small Bavarian town each year.

Opponents call Wagner a megalomaniac and say the festival is tainted by associations with the Third Reich. Adolf Hitler became a regular guest of his favorite composer's family, who continued the tradition after Richard Wagner died in 1883.

Few Germans seem to share their qualms.

Droves of visitors flock to Bayreuth each summer for the six-week event hoping to attend a performance -- regardless of the fact that they are vying for some of the world's most coveted tickets.

Visitors who want to be guaranteed success must apply for tickets about six months before the festival, when tickets are allocated. Most requests are placed on a waiting list of thousands where some wait for up to 15 years.

"We never advertise the festival. People just come to us," said Bayreuth Festival spokesman Peter Emmerich. "The festival has been permanently sold out since the 1960s."

"It's a phenomenon. The average waiting time for a ticket is seven years, but some wait as many as 15 years." Last year there were half a million requests for 58,000 tickets.

"It just shows you the huge demand there is for his music -- particularly today in the modern world."

A few statesmen and other VIPs are invited each season. Others have to wait their turn.

"I've been on the waiting list for eight years," said one taxi-driver, who wore a tuxedo and bow tie during the festival in case a passenger came out early and left him a ticket for the rest of the performance.

One did and he won a free seat for the last two acts of a new production of Wagner's opera The Mastersingers of Nuremberg -- so it was just as well he was properly dressed for the occasion, he said.

Some locals in the town have "friends" working in the box office, on the door, in the wings. A last-minute phone call can mean a seat for that night's performance.

Fans dressed in evening finery queue outside the festival box office for hours in the hope of getting returns.

That having failed, they wait outside the entrance to the theater before the performance displaying signs, such as:

"It's probably impossible but I'm looking for a ticket".

Some offer multiples of the original prices, which range up to 300 marks ($200) a seat -- moderate by international standards.

Students volunteer to work as ushers for a pittance to see the shows. Virtually all the festival theater's employees from cleaners to administrators are Wagner music-lovers and are there mainly for complimentary tickets to dress rehearsals.

Even the singers make a sacrifice to be here by accepting a pay cut just to perform on the Bayreuth stage -- a showcase for operatic talent, where many performers have made their names.

"Wagner fans are obsessed. They're unlike fans of any other composer," said one of the soloists performing in this year's production of the Mastersingers directed by Wolfgang Wagner, the composer's grandson.

He shook his head as a gang of autograph hunters, all aged over 60, who had tracked the singers down to their favorite pub in Bayreuth, badgered each one in turn for their signature.

"It's because the music gets under your skin. Once it's there you never get tired of it," said the German soloist, who has been performing at Bayreuth for 20 years.

The atmosphere inside the theater -- packed with people who have gone to ridiculous lengths to be there -- is slightly tense. A once-in-a-lifetime experience is not always a relaxed affair.

Performances are long. The intervals are long too, lasting one hour during which the audience munch bratwurst and drink beer -- in this thoroughly German experience.

The ultimate experience for true devotees is perhaps the Ring Cycle, Wagner's longest work, a four-day marathon of four performances each no less than six hours.

Visitors come armed with cough sweets and cushions since rustling programs, wheezes, coughs and noisy fidgeting are all taboo here.

The theater, famed for its superb acoustics, is larger, with a bigger and taller stage than other opera houses built at the time. The orchestra pit is below the stage and kept out of sight so that the music appears to well up from the ground.

Wagner's works were intended to fuse poetry, drama and theater. That is why he did not call them "operas", preferring to term them "music dramas". He wrote the librettos himself based on tales of mediaeval knights and epics of Germanic tribes -- hence its popularity with nationalists -- notably the Nazis.

"For Germans Bayreuth is more than just a music festival, and although we have many guests from abroad, it will always be a symbol for all that is German," Emmerich said.

Every year some 45,000 people visit the villa where Richard Wagner spent the last 20 years of his life, "haus wahnfried" -- meaning peace from delusion -- and the grave where he is buried alongside his widow Cosima and his dog.

"For Germans Bayreuth is more than just a music festival, and although we have many guests from abroad, it will always be a symbol for all that is German."

Now a museum, it is dedicated to the composer's life and works.

It is full of Wagner's musical scores and models of productions going back to the festival's founding year in 1876. But it also includes objects from his everyday life.

"These things have nothing to do with his musical heritage. But we try to exhibit them to show that he was not a Greek god but a human being too," said museum director Sven Friedrich, referring to the composer's clothes and personal effects.

"But for some Wagner fans they are more like religious reliquaries," he told Reuters, pointing to the "death sofa" which had to be encased in glass to prevent fans plucking out upholstery feathers as a keepsake. (Reuter)

Australians Turning to Buddhism and Islam

As Australia's multicultural society blossoms, many people are turning away from traditional Western religions and looking towards Asia and the Middle East for spiritual enlightenment.

SYDNEY -- The musky smell of joss sticks and the sight of saffron-robed Buddhist monks are becoming ever more frequent in Australia, while every Friday the Islamic call to prayer wafts across Sydney via a community radio station.

In western Sydney, Australian schoolchildren in Muslim hajib headscarfs face Mecca and pray in Arabic during morning assembly, while steelworkers south of Sydney visit the biggest Buddhist temple in the southern hemisphere.

As Australia's multicultural society blossoms, many people are turning away from traditional Western religions and looking towards Asia and the Middle East for spiritual enlightenment.

According to the latest census, Buddhism has become the fastest growing faith in Australia, growing 300 percent between 1981 and 1991, closely followed by Islam.

In 1991 there were 140,000 Buddhists. The 1996 census conducted last month is expected to show about 200,000, or one percent, of Australia's 18 million population are Buddhists.

Some Buddhist leaders believe their followers will make up 10 percent of the population within 50 years.

The growth in Buddhism, albeit from a low base, has been largely due to migration, with a third of Buddhists born in Vietnam and 20 percent in Malaysia, Cambodia or Laos.

But there is a growing list of Anglo-Celtic Australians converting to Buddhism. Tens of thousands of Australians are flocking to hear the words of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, during his current two-week visit.

"Life is becoming more stressful in Australia and people are looking for a way to overcome that stress, so they are looking to practices like Buddhism," said Graeme Lyall, a 65-year-old convert and chairman of the Buddhist Council of New South Wales.

Buddhists also say their god-less faith fits well with Western scientific and secular perspectives, making it attractive to Australians of Christian origin.

"Traditional religions are finding they have conflicts with advances in science. Buddhism doesn't have any conflicts with science as the Buddha taught there are many world systems," explained Lyall.

The Dalai Lama said Buddhism has also become fashionable in Western societies. "I think the concept of one truth, one religion, is out of date," said the Tibetan god-king.

Islam has also experienced a dramatic rise in Australia.

According to the 1991 census there were 300,000 Muslims in Australia. The figure today is likely to be close to 500,000.

The increase in the number of Muslims has been through the growth of families -- growth reflected in the A$300 million (U.S.$237 million) worth of marble mosques and Islamic schools in Sydney and Melbourne.

"We are seeing more and more young people coming forward and becoming more attached to Islam," said Ali Roude, chairman of the Islamic Council of New South Wales.

"You walk in the streets and you find young women, Muslim women, wearing the hijab as an expression of their identity and belief. The more facilities we have, the more interest there is from young people to become involved."

"If you have the courage of your convictions here and are prepared to pursue them, you get a lot of respect."

Both Buddhism and Islam have long histories in Australia.

Lyall said Buddhism may date back to the 14th century when Chinese sailors reached the northern tip of Australia.

But the first significant signs of Buddhism occurred at the turn of the century when thousands of Chinese arrived during the country's gold rush. Lyall says an estimated 30,000 Buddhists worked the gold fields of eastern Australia.

Islam came to Australia in the 1800s with Muslim camel drivers brought out to help explore the arid interior of the country. But Islam's initial impact was negligible -- herds of feral camels and abandoned mosques were the only legacy.

The introduction in 1901 of the white Australia policy, a racist immigration law which judged migrants on their English, saw Buddhist and Muslim numbers drop dramatically.

The end of the racist policy by the early 1970s and a need for cheap labor saw Middle Eastern migrants welcomed, while conflict in Indochina resulted in Buddhist refugees.

But Australians were not tolerant of either, ranking Islam and Buddhism the two most disliked faiths.

Today, Australia is a multicultural society where ethnicity is protected by law.

"The Australian way of life encourages tolerance and respect, so it is easier to practice a non-Western religion in this country than in other countries," said Kerry Trembath, a Catholic who converted to Buddhism 10 years ago.

Silma Ihram, an Anglo-Celtic Protestant who converted to Islam and founded the Noor-al-Houda Islamic school in western Sydney, said it took time for her peers to accept her decision.

"If you have the courage of your convictions here and are prepared to pursue them, you get a lot of respect," she said.

Ihram said many of her students, who wear the hajib not only at school but at home, had lost touch with Islam and that religious tolerance had grown with education. "Educators now teach Islam as not such a heathen religion," Ihram said.

(Reuter)

858 Polluters in China Slated for Closure

BEIJING -- The southern Chinese province of Guangxi has launched a major anti-pollution campaign, ordering the closure of 858 industrial firms before the end of the month, Xinhua said.

The companies on the pollution blacklist include 324 paper mills, 413 gold-dressing plants, 96 tanneries, 16 chemical and pesticides works and two coking plants, the official news agency said.

The list was drawn up by a group of 200 government officials and environmentalists.

Guangxi has spent two billion yuan ($240 million) in building some 4,200 environment-related projects over the past five years.

In a separate dispatch, Xinhua said a large-scale fertilizer plant in the southwestern provin of Guizhou had been fined 1.68 million yuan for discharging industrial waste into a local lake and killing more than 2,000 tons of fish.

The fine was handed down by the Guizhou Higher People's Court after a year-long trial.

(AFP)

Rural Poor in Bangladesh to Get Cell Phones

DHAKA, Bangladesh -- The government of Bangladesh has given an innovative development bank the go-ahead to offer cell phone service in one of the world's poorest countries.

Putting gadgets usually associated with wealthy executives into the hands of poor women could open up new business opportunities for them, said Khalid Shams, deputy managing director of Grameen Bank, who outlined his plans to go into the cell phone business in a weekend interview.

Women the bank has helped to start small poultry, grocery and dairy businesses would be able to reach new customers and keep in better touch with suppliers.

Only one out of 500 people in this nation of 120 million has access to conventional telephones.

Satellite technology has been used to provide telephone service in other parts of the world where stringing lines would have been impractical because communities were either too scattered or too poor.

Grameen Bank makes loans averaging $100, mainly to rural women, for businesses and homes. It got permission for the cell phone venture last month, and officials are still trying to work out a firm timetable and other details.

Grameen, working with Norway's state-owned Telenor, the Japanese trading group Marubeni and Gonofone Development Corporation, owned by New York-based Bangladeshis, plans to spend an initial U.S. $25 million to instal 50 to 60 signal relaying towers covering 55,000 square kilometers (22,000 square miles), more than a third of the country.

They hope to cover the entire country within six years.

Shams said anyone would be able to use the service, but the bank's 2.1 million borrowers would be offered special loans and subsidized prices.

In awarding licences to Grameen Telecom and two other privately-owned companies, the government ended a monopoly Pacific Bangladesh Telecom, a private company, had enjoyed for three years.

Pacific Bangladesh Telecom had signed up 4,000 subscribers - - mainly wealthy, urban business people.

(AP)

Danes Who Die Alone Up by 40%

COPENHAGEN -- The number of Danes who die alone and whose bodies are discovered sometimes weeks later has increased by 40 percent in the last 10 years, according to statistics released by the police here.

It said that some 7,091 had suffered such a death in the last 10 years.

"This shows that Denmark has never had so many lonely people, left to fend for themselves, abandoned by their entourage," said Doctor Ole Fendige Olsen, speaking on Danish radio.

He said that one ambulance service often received calls from neighbors who, after detecting a strong smell, discovered people in the neighborhood who had died up to three weeks earlier without anyone inquiring about them. (AFP)



The Anniversary of the Demise of Hazrat Fatima (SA)

Tehran Times Service

The beloved daughter of the Holy Prophet (S), Hazrat Fatima (SA) was born in Mecca o Friday Jamadial-Thani 20 (the 6th lunar month). It is said it was the 8th or 12th year before the Hijrat. Her demise was on Jamadial-Awal, 11th year after Hijrat. In accordance with the revealed will of God, she was named, Fatima (SA), and her epithets were Saddiqah, Raziah, Marziyyeh, Zakiyyeh, Zahra, Batul, Umm ul-Aimmah. Her mother, Khadijeh (SA), the pious and great wife of Mohammad (S), died at the age of 65 and was buried in Mecca.

The Prophet (S) used to say, "Never did God give me a better wife than Khadijeh (SA). She hailed my mission at a time when everybody shouted out against it and she lent me the support of her conviction when there was hardly a believer. She enlivened my life when I was down-hearted and opened the flood gates of her heart when I felt lonely and deserted. Khadijeh's (SA) love was given to me by God. How could I forget her?"

She was the first woman who embraced Islam, while Ali (AS), son of Abu Talib, was the first male who embraced it. Ali (AS), the pure Imam, said, "During those days, Islam was the religion of only the Prophet (S) himself and his wife Khadijeh (SA); I was the third of the trio. Nobody else in the world accepted Islam."

Khadijeh's (SA) death was a great blow to the Prophet (S). It made everything look dark and dismal. So the lady Fatima (SA) was only able to enjoy the love and the companionship of her mother for eight years. Thereafter, she was left totally to the paternal care of her father, the Holy Prophet (S).

Fatima (SA), in her facial features and personality traits, was a living model of her father. As long as she was in her father's house, she used to personally handle all the affairs of the household, and serve her father – taking care of the minutest details of his life. Whenever he returned home with his head covered with the dust and dirt thrown on him by the idolators of Mecca, and sometimes even wounded by the stones pelted at him by the people, she would wash him address the wounds herself.

The Prophet (S) respected her so much that whenever she came to him, he used to get up and give her a seat beside him; not because she was his beloved daughter, but for her personal purity and holiness.

Her Marriage

In the second year after the migration from Mecca to Medina, she was a grown-up girl.

The Prophet (S) was ordained by God to effect the alliance between Fatima (SA) and his cousin and vicegerent, Ali (AS) son of Abu Talib.

Ali (AS) presented himself to the Prophet (S) offering himself to be matched with Fatima (SA). The Prophet (S) who had turned a deaf ear to all previous offers, now smiled and asked, "Oh Ali (AS)! What do you possesses of the things of this world?" Ali (AS) submitted in reply, "Oh Prophet (S) of God! I have a horse, a camel, a sword and an shield." The Holy Prophet (S) said, "The horse and the sword you need to fight for the defense of the truth and what is right; the camel for the labor to earn your sustenance; but the shield you do not need for God is your protector. Go and sell it."

Ali (AS) sold his armor and took the amount to the Prophet (S) as the dowry of Fatima (SA) and the expenses of the wedding party.

All that the Holy Prophet (S) gave to his daughter was a leather-covered pillow, a hide for a bed, a few earthen vessels, a leather water sack, and a spinning wheel. By this, the Prophet (S) set an example of the maximum limit of simplicity as a guiding model for his followers. If the Muslims, particularly those who claim to follow the pure descendants of the Prophet (S) know this and keep it in view and act faithfully according to it, how easy and happy their life will be, free from unnecessary incumbrances, indebtedness, economic worries and financial difficulties.

Ali (AS) had been engaged to her for several days before he felt for the expedition to Badr. The marriage was celebrated three months later in Medina. Ali (AS) was about twenty five and Fatima (SA) was account 10 or 14 according to the different traditions. They were married and through their alliance, 11 Imams (AS) came into this world.

The Prophet (S) repeatedly said, "If Ali (AS) had not been born, Fatima (SA) would have had none of her set to marry with." It was a very happy marriage. She gave birth to four children and the fifth, Mushin, was a still born. The names of these four were Hasan (AS), the second pure Imam, Husein (S), the third pure Imam (the hero of Karbala), Zainab (SA) who became the wife of Abdullah ibn Ja'far and the defender of true Islam in Kufa and Damascus and Umm ul-Khulthum, who became the wife of Ubaidullah ibn Ja'far.

The transcendent distinctiveness of their respective characters made them blend so well with each other that they never quarreled with or complained about one another but led a happy and contented life.

Each one of them was well-off in his or her own right: Fatima (SA) was the only heir of one of the richest women of Arabia, Khadijeh (SA), and had inherited many orchards and gardens in Mecca and Madina. Besides that, she was the daughter of the head of a rich clan and leader of a fast growing kingdom. Ali (AS) was a marshall who had very handsome shares from the spoils of wars. Yet, all that they owned went to the poor, the crippled and the orphans and they themselves often starved. Their only luxury in life was prayers and they willingly shared the sorrows and suffering of the poor.

Fatima (SA)

Fatima (SA) was never the cause of annoyance to her father or to her husband, Ali (AS). She never pressed any demand upon her husband and when alone, she performed all the household duties. She was busy attending to every kind of household labor, drawing water from the well herself, washing the vessels and her family's clothing grinding the flour, and cooking. During leisure



hours, she spun wool for a wage to assist Ali (AS), and supplement his earnings with her own for the sustenance of the family.

With all this, she was so mindful of God that even while busy with the household work, she ever remembered the Lord, glorifying Him by her supplicatory recitals. Even when she got some help with Fezzah, she never threw the full burden of her household on her but divided the work between herself and Fezzah; and Ali (AS), the hero of Badr, Uhud, Khaibar, Khandaq and Hunain, would work and was sometimes seen grinding oats, lighting the oven, preparing the bread, and looking after the children.

The famous Iranian, Salman Sahabi, says, "What a housewife, the only daughter of the Prophet (S) and the wife of his vicegerent was leading the life of a poor laborer. If they had spent one-tenth of what they were distributing daily to others on themselves, they would have led a life of ease and comfort."

The Position of Fatima (SA)

Fatima (SA), during her lifetime, set the best examples of righteous and correct womanhood on earth. Her obedience to her husband was ideal and the contended life she led was a lesson for every Muslim woman. Her Godliness and God-mindedness was – because of light of guidance to womanhood. Her treatment of Fezzah is a practical example to every woman.

It was Fatima (SA) who said that the best thing for a woman was neither to cast her glance at any man not related closely or married to *(mahram)* not to expose herself to his glance. It is worth nothing that if women followed these watchwords of Fatima (SA) for chaste womanhood, how pure and safe would womanhood be and how graceful, healthy, happy and holy would human society today be.

There are many well-known declaration of the holy Prophet (S) about Fatima (SA) of which the following are a few of them:

"Fatima (SA) is a piece of my flesh. The one who incurs her wrath incurs my wrath too."

"A part of me is Fatima (SA), whatever fills her with pain, fills me, too, with pain."

"Fatima (SA) is a part of me. Whosoever annoys her, has annoyed me and whosoever annoys me, has annoys God; and whosoever annoys God has turned into an infidel."

"Many was the most blessed woman of her age; but my daughter, Fatima (SA), is the most blessed of the woman of all ages."

"Fatima (SA) is the first one who will enter heaven."

"What annoys Fatima (SA), annoys God and what pleases her will please Him."

(Sahih al-Bukhari, Muslim, Al-Termazi, Musnad Ahmad, Tabagha't ibn Sa'd, Mustadrek al-Hakim, Hulyatul Awlia, Abi Naeim, Kanzul ummal, Mizanul Ia'tadal Zahabi, Shahid Abu Dawood and many others).

Fatima (SA) was the last one whom the Prophet (S) used to visit before travel and the first one whom he visited when he came back from any journey. The Holy Prophet (S) taught her to glorify God after any prayer and before sleeping, as follows: *Allah-o Akbar* (God is Greater), 34 times, *Al-hamdullelah* (praise belongs to God) 33 times, *and Subhan Allah* (Holy is God) 33 times. This method of glorifying God is known as glorification.

Fatima (SA) in the Holy Qoran

The Holy Prophet (S) had repeatedly pointed out who his descendants *(Ahl-ul Bait)* are. The Prophet (S) repeatedly collected his vicegerent Ali (AS) (son of Abu Talib), his daughter Fatima (SA), his second grandson, Husein (AS), together. He would then pray to God saying: *"Oh Lord! These are my descendants (Ahl-ul Bait (AS))."*

Once on such an occasion, Ummu Salamath, the wife of the Prophet (S), desired to join the group of the pure ones, the Prophet (S) told her that it was on the right path. Aiesha (another wife of the Prophet (S)) also reports a similar occasion for herself. She says, "One day when the Holy Prophet (S) was wrapped in a black clock, Hasan (AS)come to him and the Prophet (S) under the clock. Then Husein (AS), and he was also received similarly by the Prophet (S) under the cloak. Then came Fatima (SA) and lastly, Ali (AS). He also received them under the cloak and recited, 'Verily God intended but to keep off from you (every kind of) impurity. Oh you, the people of the House, He will purify you with you with a thorough purification.'"

Ummu Salmah added, "When they had all come and sat together, the Angel Gabriel appeared with a verse. The Prophet (S) said, "Oh God! they (Fatima (SA), Ali (AS), Hasan (AS) and Husein (AS)) are my Ahl-ul Bait, keep them away from every impurity."

After the revelation of this verse (33:33), whenever the Prophet (S) went out of this house for his morning prayer, he used to recite it at the door of his daughter, Fatima (SA).

When Aiesha was asked about Ali (AS), son of Abu Talib, she replied, "You have asked me about the one whom the Prophet (S) loved most, By God, I saw the Prophet (S) taking Ali (AS), Fatima (SA), Hasan (AS) and Husein (AS) under his cloak and saying, 'Oh God! They and only they are my Ahl-ul Bait. Keep them away from every impurity. I asked the Prophet (S), 'Am I not of your Ahl-ul Bait?' He said, 'Leave here! You are not of my Ahl-ul Bait.'"

There are many similar occasions when the Prophet (S) repeatedly declared that his descendants were only Fatima (SA), her husband and her sons. To see the position of Fatima (SA), it is understood that those who had been purified by God Himself, could never at any time be impure. It could not be the God, the Creator of the world, thoughtlessly made someone impure and then with an after thought, amended the original decision and brought about a change in His policy and purified the creature; for God is free from the defect of change. His will never undergoes any change; it is, and it shall be, and always was so.

Those whom He purifies, He does so at the very creation of that being. Those purified by God in their very origin, spiritual, as well as physical, and their practical life, from its very beginning until its divinely determined destination, could not be but infallible. So they are called the infallible *(ma'sum)*, those who never committed even a minor sin or fault in their life.

It is indisputable that the wives of a Prophet (S) could never be one of his Ahl-ul Bait unless they were his blood relations or the mothers of his issues. None of the wives of the Holy Prophet (S), except Khadijeh (SA), was the mother of any of his surviving children, nor had they had any relation to him previous to marriage, which is only a revocable social contract.

When any quality or attribute regarding the Ahl-ul Bait (AS) is mentioned in an indefinite sense, the degree meant in the context would be the perfect or the maximum possible one. The purity meant here is the purity which is absolute (of every kind, without any impunity whatsoever). Otherwise, the use of the term 'pure' would never be in its fullest sense.

Polytheism *(shirk)* is mentioned in the Holy Qoran as an impurity, and also the greatest inequity (31:13); and inequity is the impurity of faith. Hence the ones purified by God would be only those whom polytheism had never polluted at any time; and none of the wives of the Prophet (S) were free from this impurity prior to their embracing Islam, and joining him in the revocable social contract of the matrimonial alliance.

Hence, from all points of view and reasoning, and the factual position (as clearly proven by the open declaration of the Prophet (S), conveyed to us through the evidence from the wives of the Prophet (S) themselves, and his companions, and the great scholars), that only Ali (AS), Fatima (SA), Hasan (AS) and Husein (AS) constitute the Ahl-ul Bait of the Holy Prophet (S). It is also a historical fact that they alone are the ones whose lives had always been pure and free from the pollution of polytheism while all impurity of idolatry and a heathen and pagan life.

"Say (Oh Mohammad (S))! I demand not of you any recompense for it (the toils of being Messenger) save the love of (my) relatives (Ahl-ul Bait)." (42:23)

In this verse, the Prophet (S) is being commanded to ask the believers to love his kin (the holy Ahl-ul Bait (AS)) and this command has a very wide and extensive meaning to the Muslims.

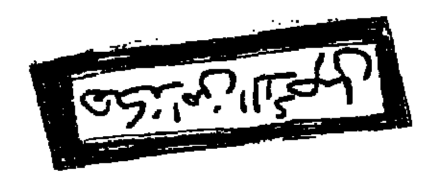
It is in view of this usefulness to the human race as a whole that the Prophet (S) declared, "I leave behind me, amidst you, two great things: The Book of God and my Ahl-ul Bait. Should you be attached to these two, after I die, you will never be mislead for verily these two will never be separated from each other until they meet me at the well of Abundance (Al-Kawthar)."

He also said, "The likeness of my Ahl-ul Bait (AS) is that of the Ark of Noah: Whosoever got into it, was saved; whosoever turned away from it was drowned and lost."

In conclusion, it is appropriate to mention here the praise offered by the late Imam Khomeini on the character of the holy Prophet (S)'s revered daughter.

"Hazrat Fatima (SA) was not an ordinary common woman. She was a spiritual woman, a terrestrial woman, embodiment of the truth of womanhood, totality of the truth of humanity in its fullest sense.

(Contd on Pg. 11)



Japan's Coalition Government Heads for Extinction

TOKYO — Japan's unlikely ruling coalition of conservatives, centrists and socialists is heading for extinction at Parliament's expected dissolution Friday for early elections next month.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), has called an extraordinary session of Parliament Friday, when he is expected to dissolve the Lower House, or House of Representatives.

His Conservative Party, which has 206 of the Lower House's 511 seats, appears to be well placed to maintain and even reinforce its grip on power in the elections touted for October 20.

The LDP has several advantages over its coalition partners, the left-wing Social Democratic Party (SDP) and new Sakigake Party, who hold 63 and 19 seats respectively. The two small parties may disappear with the rise of the new centrist Democratic Party, which is emerging as a public favorite.

Japan's political sands are constantly changing, but while analysts are almost united in writing off the SDP and Sakigake, few will risk their necks predicting future alliances.

"The chances are high that Hashimoto will remain at the head of the government. His party seems likely to gain more seats than it had," said Mitsuru Uchida, political science professor at Waseda University, describing Hashimoto's call for early elections as "intelligent."

The 59-year-old Hashimoto, who has been premier since January, has a strong political record and has been applauded for his success in imposing firm political leadership in a country notoriously lacking in such ability.

Two other parties are both in the opposition. The Shinshinto or new Frontier Party, which has 167 seats, is a conservative mix of defectors from the LDP, and the Japan Communist Party has 15 seats.

Shinshinto leader Ichiro Ozawa, taking advantage of Hashimoto's trip to the United Nations in New York until Wednesday, organized Monday a large rally in the western prefecture of Okayama, the premier's constituency.

The rally was to garner support for its candidate, former Agriculture Minister Mutsuki Kato.

Many have been surprised by the strong support emerging for the Democratic Party which hold a convention to mark its official launch on Saturday. Despite being very new, it is taking advantage of the popularity of one of its leaders, Health Minister Naoto Kan, who unmasked a scandal over aids-tainted blood products that shocked the public.

The election is under a new electoral system, adopted in January 1994, which divides the Lower House into 300 single-seat constituencies and 200 seats elected under proportional representation in 11 regions.

The previous system had a slightly higher number of 511 deputies elected from multiple-seat constituencies.

The new system, drawn up to improve the transparency of Japan's murky political waters and reduce the role of money in election campaigns, nevertheless favors larger parties. (AFP)

S. Korea's Kim Said Reviewing Policy Toward N. Korea

SEOUL — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam is considering policy changes toward North Korea after a northern submarine dropped heavily-armed agents on a southern beach, Seoul media said on Tuesday.

"I'm seriously considering reviewing our policy toward North Korea," leading newspaper *Dong-A Ilbo* quoted Kim as telling a group of Japanese political editors.

Presidential spokesmen were not available to comment.

In its Wednesday's edition, *Dong-A* said Kim did not go into details of what kind of steps the government would take, but said Kim gave a clear indication of a wide-ranging shift in the government's position toward the Communist North.

An estimated 26 North Korean agents came ashore on an east coast beach near the city of Kangnung last Wednesday. Nine have been killed by South Korean security forces, 11 were found shot dead — possibliy murdered by their own colleagues — one was captured and five are thought to be still on the run.

Kim denounced the infiltration as an act of "military provocation", saying it was not a simple spy case.

After asking the Japanese reporters what would happen if a submarine sneaked into Osaka or an area near Washington, Kim was quoted as saying, "The United States and Japan would have probably started a war against the aggressor. The country should have disappeared as the United States would have launched an attack."

Breaking a weeklong silence, the North on Monday demanded the return of the vessel and crew as the submarine stranded off South Korea last week due to engine failure.

But Kim flatly dismissed the North Korean claim as a lie, citing the fact that North Korean agents wore South Korean clothes and shoes.

He added that the North Korean submarine could not drift to the South due to the Northbound ocean current in the east sea.

"The intrusion was made deliberately from the begining," *Dong-A* quoted Kim as saying.

In an angry response South Korea's Defense Ministry said on Tuesday that Seoul would seek to restart war games with the United States.

The annual team spirit military exercises were dropped last year as part of a landmark deal between the United States and North Korea under which Pyongyang agreed to scrap its suspected nucelar weapons program. Reuter

Clinton Ahead by 12 Points in ABC Poll



WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton held a 12-point lead over Republican challenger Bob Dole while Reform Party candidate Ross Perot hit his lowest point this year, the latest *ABC* news poll showed on Monday.

Among likely voters, Clinton scored 52 percent support compared to Dole's 40 percent and Perot's 4 percent. It was Perot's lowest reading in the *ABC* weekly tracking poll.

Among a slightly larger group of registered voters, Clinton's lead was a bit wider — 14 points, *ABC* said. The president had 51 percent to Dole's 37 percent, with Perot at 6 percent.

ABC said Perot's support had steadily declined since he was nominated in August. But the survey, conducted Wednesday through Sunday, found that 61 percent of Amercians still think Perot should be included in the presidential debates.

The president's lead was up by four points over last week and was the same as its average since labor pay, *ABC* said. It said a state-by-state examination of the results would translate into 400 electoral votes for Clinton if the voting were held today. A total of 270 electoral votes are needed to win.

The poll was conducted among a random national sample of 767 registered voters and 636 likely voters. The margins of error in each group was 4 percent and 4.5 percent respectively, *ABC* said. Reuter

Muslim Minority Returns to Greek Parliament

ATHENS — Greece's ethnic Turkish minority has regained a voice in Parliament after three years in the wilderness, with three of its representatives gaining seats in weekend elections.

The 100,000-strong Muslim minority, based in northeastern Greece, had lost all its seats in 1993 elections for the first time in 70 years.

Sunday's poll brought to power Galip, a member of Greece's governing socialists; Byrol Afikoglu, from the main opposition Conservative Party, and Mustapha Mustapha of the left-wing coalition Synaspismos.

The Muslim comeback "will allow us to defend the minority more effectively, and to push forward our claims," said Mustapha, who is the first nonsocialist left-wing candidate to represent the minority.

He added that he saw the election of minority representatives from more than one party as a measure of the political "normalization" of Greek Muslims.

While agreeing with this statement, several other minority politicians noted that Galip and Afikoglu both benefitted from Turkish television coverage.

"In spite of the Turko-Greek tension, the two main Greek parties have sealed an opportunistic agreement with Turkey," said a party official who asked to remain anonymous.

Greece's governing Pasok Socialist Party won 162 seats in the 300-member Parliament in weekend elections, final results from the Interior Ministry showed Tuesday.

The opposition New Democracy Conservative Party came second with 108 seats and the Communist Party was third with 11 deputies. (AFP)

Former Leader Faces Challenge of Drawing Back Refugees

COTABATO, Philippines — Luring back about half a million refugees who fled the civil war in the Southern Philippines will be a top priority of the Muslim region's new governor, analysts say.

The war on Mindanao Island between Manila and governor-elect Nur Misuari's separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in the early 1970s not only left



120,000 people dead, but also dislocated millions from their homes, with many of them fleeing to neighboring Malaysia.

Misuari, who signed a landmark peace pact with the government at the beginning of this month to end the 24-year struggle, has set his sights on drawing back the refugees in the hope that they can help rebuild their war-ravaged homeland.

"I will bring the best brains in Mindanao into this house. I want to call upon our brothers and sisters in Mindanao, Muslims or Christians or highlanders, that I need their expertise," he said recently.

The bulk of the refugees fled to the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah, where many have become Malaysian citizens, secured highly-paid jobs and set up profitable businesses.

But others have strained local social services. Their presence has been a frequent topic of discussion between Manila and Kuala Lumpur.

Most of those who fled to Sabah come from the island of Basilan and the provinces of Sulu and Tawi-tawi in the extreme south of the Philippines.

Zacaria Candao, Misuari's predecessor as governor of the four-province autonomous region of Muslim Mindanao (Armm) before the peace deal, said Misuari should lure back these refugees but stressed that the economic conditions for their return must first be established.

"I think that this is one problem that Nur Misuari must really address immediately," he told AFP here.

"The first problem of Nur Misuari would be to find a suitable place to resettle them, especially in their places of origin, if possible," he added.

But he also cautioned that the new regional leadership should "go slow on the return of the refugees because while it is true that the peace agreement has been concluded" it has yet to be fully implemented and its promises of economic development have yet to be realized.

As regional governor and head of a Muslim-led council through which huge infrastructure and development funds for the Armm and 10 other provinces will be channeled, Misuari may well succeed in turning the underdeveloped south into a boom area.

Analysts project that with the onset of economic development following peace agreement, more refugees would choose to return.

The creation of more jobs at home and continued consultations between Sabah and the Armm leadership are expected to cut down the number of Filipinos entering the Malaysian state illegally, they added. (AFP)

Ukraine to Review Tactics on Chernobyl Tomb

KIEV — A top minister on Tuesday said Ukraine was reviewing how to deal with the cracking 'tomb' around the Chernobyl Nuclear Powerplant's ruined fourth reactor after a chain reaction was observed there last week.

Environment Minister Yuri Kostenko's comments were the first admission that the increased readings of neutron activity 10 years after the reactor exploded amounted to a limited nuclear chain reaction inside the structure. But he said data was insufficient to determine whether it posed a real threat.

"As we are observing a chain reaction in the ruined reactor, we have to review our strategy and take decisions to make the sarcophagus safer," Kostenko, Ukraine's top negotiator on closing Chernobyl, told a news conference.

"What we are observing shows that we must resolve the problem of nuclear fuel inside. By some means or other we must remove as much fuel as possible to rule out the development of chain reactions inside the devastated reactor." Reuter



France's Juppe Calls Parliament Confidence Vote

DEAUVILLE, France — French Prime Minister Alain Juppe, seeking to unite a fractious center-right coalition behind his government, said on Tuesday he would seek a vote of confidence in his economic policy when Parliament reconvenes next week after the summer recess.

"To renew the contract that unites us for this legislative period, especially in the eyes of the French public, I will seek a confidence vote in the National Assembly after a policy statement at the start of the new session," Juppe told a meeting of the Union for French Democracy (UDF) junior coalition party, the session begins next Tuesday.

Since the coalition holds four-fifths of the seats in the 577-member assembly, the outcome is a foregone conclusion.

However Juppe's tactic appeared aimed at silencing sniping at his austerity policies from critics in his own ranks, including former gaullist Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and outspoken UDF free-



marketeeg Alain Madelin.

Several coalition politicians have criticized Juppe's planned income tax cuts as inadequate and sought a change in economic priorities to boost sluggish growth and combat record 12.5 percent unemployment. Reuter

China Claims Australia Interfering in Its Affairs

BEIJING — Beijing said on Tuesday that Australia was interfering in China's internal affairs by hosting the Dalai Lama and said this would affect trade ties.

"The Australian government receiving the Dalai Lama is interference in China's internal affairs," Foreign Ministry Shen Guofang told a news briefing in Beijing.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard has agreed to meet the exiled spiritual leader, Beijing's main rival for the loyalties of its restive Tibetan population, in defiance of earlier Chinese threats of trade retaliation. Reuter

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: Turkey

The World's Biggest Bazaar

THE OLDEST AND LARGEST covered marketplace in the world is in Istanbul at the center of the old city. A giant labyrinth with about 60 streets and more than 3,000 shops, the Covered Bazaar is a unique sight every visitor to Istanbul must see. The huge complex resembling a town under a roof grew to its present size over a long period of time. The 15th century bazaar, a structure of two parts with thick walls and a series of domes, was gradually expanded in the following centuries by roofing in the adjoining streets, thus forming the peculiar Oriental marketplace.



The domes and roofs of the Covered Bazaar in Istanbul.

In the past, the Covered Bazaar was the business and crafts center of the city of Istabul where members of different guilds clustered around certain streets. These guilds by tradition, had very strict rules and ethics governing business practice. Such rules dictated, for example, that lodge members be totally alert with regard to quality of merchandise they produced and sold, and forbade them to pass any defective items to the customer knowingly. All sorts of valuable fabrics, jewellery, weapons, and antiques were sold by merchants from families which for generations dealt in the same trade. The trust so generated in the public would even lead some customers to deposit their savings with the tradesmen of the Covered Bazaar, solely on their word of honor, to be used in business for profit, the way one buys stock shares today.

The Covered Bazaar of Istanbul was badly damaged during the earthquake towards the end of the 19th century and by a number of big fires afterwards, and although the structures were restored to what they had been, other characteristics of the bazaar could not be. Consequently, the Covered Bazaar lost its status as the major business center of Istanbul and continued its existence during the last decades as a large and nostalgic marketplace, appealing especially to those interested in Turkish handicrafts.

The change in the identity of the Covered Bazaar is evidenced by the changes in its streets. Nowadays, almost every street is a conglomerate of shops dealing in the trade of different goods, and the street names like Yorgancilar (quilt makers), Terlikciler (slipper makers) and Fesciler (fez makers) have come to be street names only. The coupld of exceptions to this are the main street of the Covered Bazaar where there is a clustering of jewellers and one of the streets opening to it, occupied entirely by goldsmiths. Another change is that the shops in the Covered Bazaar today, many of them small, do not offer fixed or definite prices to customers, and a sale is made at the true worth of an item only if the buyer is good at bargaining. A chance to bargain over the price of an item—something new for many foreigners—and the sheer quantity of the works of Turkish artisans displayed in the shops do not appeal to some visitors but the majority prefer to spend their money and limited shopping time more efficiently. This has led during the 1970s to the emergence of large, modern stores near the main entrance of the bazaar. Today, the Covered Bazaar is more of a tourist attraction with its romantic historical outlook, its lively atmosphere unique with shopkekepers personally and adamantly invited passersby into their shops, its continuous hum and the flow of people through its streets. MOre serious shopping for Turkish carpets and jewellery as well as handicrafts such as silver, copper, brass and bronze gift items, ceramics, onyx, leatherware and other souvenirs is often done at the new stores which adhere to contemporary business standards to the point of providing certificates of quality and origin for their wares, and offering guaranteed delivery shipment to any address abroad. (Courtesy of *Istanbul*, 20th Ed., 1988.)



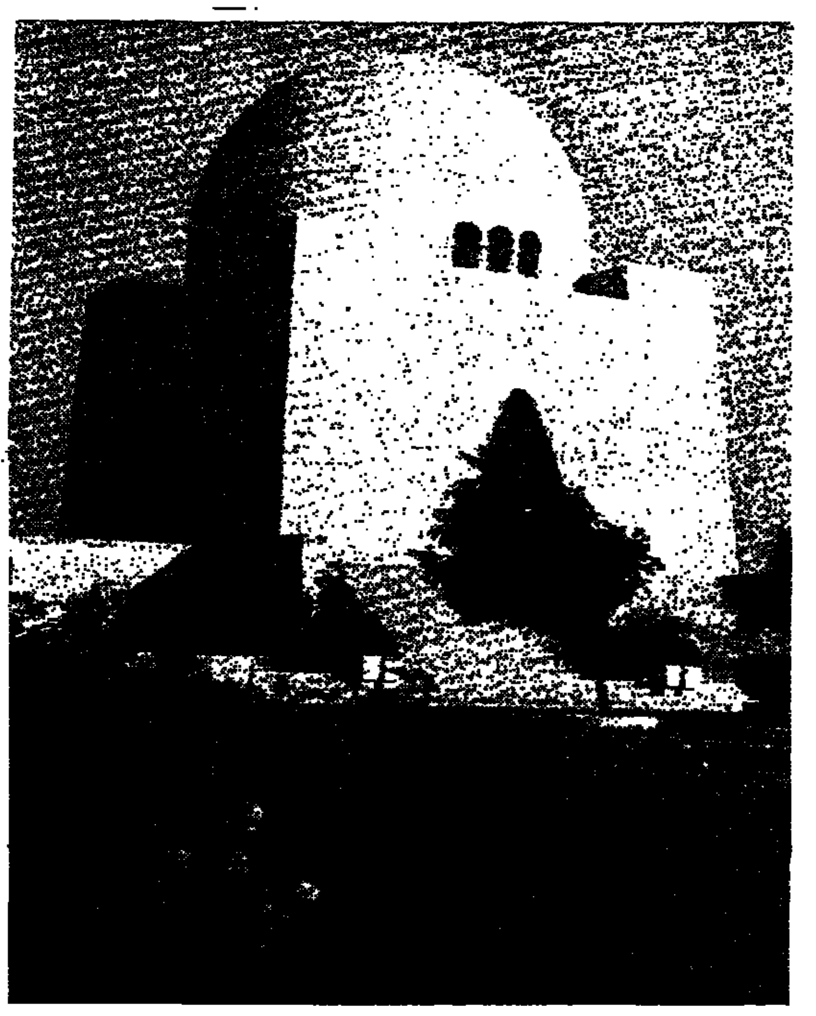
A view of one of the bazaar's main streets.

Travelogue

Sind's Antiquity

Facing the great Arabian Sea on the south a few degrees above the Tropic of Cancer, the Hindu province of Punjab on the north, Baluchistan Province on the west and the Indian desert on the east, Sind is one of mother nature's treasure trove. Relatively young as a nation, having gained its independence only two years after the last World War, Sind has made its presence in the earliest annals of civilizations, dating as far back as some 3,000, 4,000 or 5,000 years (depending on which travel guide you refer to).

The majestic Indus River which cuts vertically through the entire province was a witness to the ancient and highly developed Indus Valley civilization. This was contemporary to the better-known civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt. For this reason, Sind derived its name from the River Indus—the largest of three great rivers.



Quaid-e-Azam Mausoleum.

Little is known, however, of the origins of this civilization despite the immensity of the size of archeological findings and excavations made in various parts of the province. The only thing that could be confirmed about it was its mysterious decline around 1500 B.C.

In 326 B.C., Sind gained additional prominence when it had an unexpected royal visitor from Macedonia in the person of Alexander the Great. Although this king of Macedonia only made a brief appearance in the province, before his death in the year 323 B.C. one of his trusted men, Nearchus, was known to have found the vital sea route to the Asian civilizations via the Indus.

In the next century, between 3rd and 2nd B.C. Buddhism found its way into the province when it became part of the Mauryan Empire which expanded and consolidated its control over the north of India. Hinduism made its impact in the province a little later in the 6th and 8th century A.D.

Islamic Pakistan today had its beginnings in the Middle Ages. Muhammad bin Qasim, who made an Arab expedition in 711 A.D., is greatly accredited to have introduced Islam to Pakistan when he led his armies to conquer the province of Sind. Centuries after, the province saw an uninterrupted flow of wanderers, refugees and invaders of all sorts such as the Mongol hordes, Kalhoras and Talpurs.

The British had their firm hand on the territory in 1843 when they successfully crushed the Talpurs' revolt. The British took control of the territory until 1947, when predominantly Muslim Pakistan was separated from India after a long and arduous struggle.

For the adventurous traveler, a visit to Sind should originate from Karachi, Pakistan's commercial and industrial center. Situated near the mouth of the Indus River, on the shores of the Arabian Sea, Karachi is a city of contrasts where old and new buildings and narrow alley-ways are in abundance.

Referred to today as the "City of Lights" because of its nuclear power station, Karachi's best selling points are its bazaars, architecture and coastline. The best buys from the bazaars are exquisite tribal jewelleries and traditional Sindhi fabrics.

Of the various places of interest in the city, one should not miss the "Mazaar" or the Mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Father of Pakistan. Entirely built of marble, the "Mazaar" is the most revered landmark in the city. For most Sindhis, religion occupies a primordial place in their lives.



Centuries-old tombs attest to an ancient civilization.

The coastline is at its best at sunset. It is also the time to go out into the harbor for "crabbing." If you're lucky enough, you can even witness giant sea turtles laying eggs—just like in the East Coast of Malaysia—or ride a colorfully clad camel on the shoreline.

Thatta, about 98 kilometers east of Karachi, should be the next natural destination if you're going by land. Capital of Sind from the 14th-17th century, Thatta's main attraction is the Makli Hill or Little Mecca. With about a million graves scattered over an area of some 10 square kilometers, Makli Hill rightly deserves the reputation of being the world's largest necropolis.

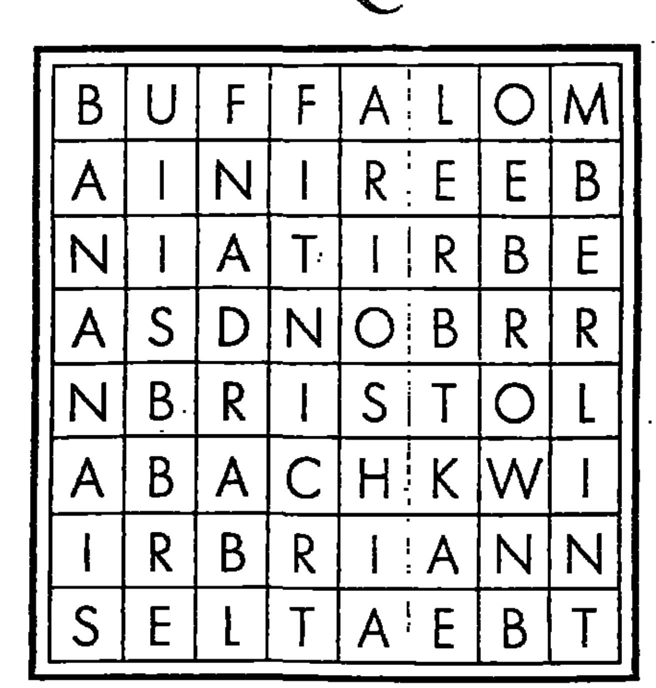
Besides the tombs and graves, a visit to the Shah Jahan Mosque will be worth the while. Also called Jami Mosque, this structure has the striking blue-glazed tiles, typically used in the province, and alluring mosaic work.

A visit to Pakistan, much less to Sind Province, will be of little worth without including Moenjodaro. Rediscovered by British archeologist Sir John Marshall in 1922, Moenjodaro's striking relics include a great public bath which is believed to be used for rituals; a rich residential area which has got high and dark walls; a highly sophisticated drainage system which has got two outlets, one for water and the other for waste; and, skeletons in contorted positions. A visit to the archaeological museum adjacent to the excavation site should give an explorer a good grounding on Sind's archaelogical findings.

After having seen the relics of the great Indus Valley civilization, one could not help but be awed by its great mysteries that remain unknown to the living men of our century. Those who have been to Sind could only keep on coming back to the scene! (Courtesy of *Changi Airport Magazine*, September 1990.)

Brain Teaser

Initial Reaction



B	U	F	F	A	L	O	M
A	I	N	I	R	E	E	B
N	I	A	T	I	R	B	E
A	S	D	N	O	B	R	R
N	B	R	I	S	T	O	L
A	B	A	C	H	K	W	I
I	R	B	R	I	A	N	N
S	E	L	T	A	E	B	T

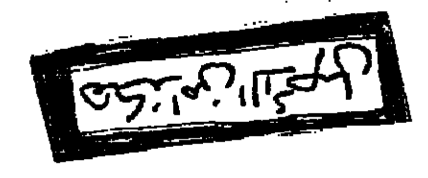
Find one word beginning with B for each subject category listed below. Tick them off as you find them and put a line through the words on the grid. Words are spelt out across, down, upwards, and backwards, but not diagonally. Some letters will be used twice, and remember that all words begin with the same letter. Unused letters, from left to right and from top to bottom, will refer to an item of clothing.

SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH B...

*COUNTRY *COLOR *FRUIT *BOY'S NAME *BRITISH CITY *CAPITAL CITY *COMPOSER *DRINK *POP GROUP *FILM CHARACTER *LAND MAMMAL.

Answers to last week's WORD BUILDER:

Age, anger, are, ear, earn, era, gear, nag, near, rag, rage, ran, rang, range.



هكذا من الأجيال

TODAY IN HISTORY

1965 - Former President Juan Bosch returns to Dominican Republic from exile in Puerto Rico, and his homecoming is marred by shooting outbreaks.

1976 - Leaders of five black African nations decline to accept plan presented by Rhodesia's Prime Minister Ian Smith to achieve black majority rule in Rhodesia.

1984 - Britain and China initial agreement that returns Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.

1988 - Gunmen kill Burmese cabinet minister who had been working to rebuild nation's north and east provinces.

1989 - Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze tells UN General Assembly that Moscow will join United States in reducing or destroying all chemical weapons.

1993 - Thousands cheer Boris Yeltsin on Red Square in a demonstration of public support, the biggest since his disbanding of Parliament.

1994 - President Clinton lifts most U.S. sanctions against Haiti.

CANDID CAMERA

Photo: Abbas Kowsari



TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1962 — Army stages coup in Yemen, and Colonel Abdulla el-Sallah becomes premier.

1968 — France bars Britain's entry into European common market.

1970 — Jordan's King Hussein and Al Fatah guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat meet in Cairo with 10 Arab chiefs of state and sign 14-point agreement ending civil war in Jordan.

1973 — Soviet Union launches spacecraft into orbit around earth with two cosmonauts aboard.

1987 — China's premier Zhao Ziyang defends Communist Party's purge of dissidents.

1988 — Soviet Union, at United Nations, calls on United States to join Moscow in creating a World Space Organization.

1993 — Abkhazian rebels capture provincial capital of Sukhumi in Georgia.

1995 — Heavy monsoon rains flood four coal mines in northern India, drowning at least nine miners and leaving 64 others trapped.

Short Story

Indian Camp

By Ernest Hemingway

At the lake shore there was another rowboat drawn up. The two Indians stood waiting.

Nick and his father got in the stern of the boat and the Indians shoved it off and one of them got in to row. Uncle George sat in the stern of the camp rowboat. The young Indian shoved the camp boat off and got in to row Uncle George.

The two boats started off in the dark. Nick heard the oarlocks of the other boat quite a way ahead of them in the mist. The Indians rowed with quick choppy strokes. Nick lay back with his father's arm around him. It was cold on the water. The Indian who was rowing them was working very hard, but the other boat moved farther ahead in the mist all the time.

'Where are we going, dad?' Nick asked.

'Over to the Indian camp. There is an Indian lady very sick.'

'Oh,' said Nick.

Across the bay they found the other boat beached. Uncle George was smoking a cigar in the dark. The young Indian pulled the boat way up on the beach. Uncle George gave both the Indians cigars.

They walked up from the beach through a meadow that was soaking wet with dew, following the young Indian who carried a lantern. Then they went into the woods and followed a trail that led to the logging road that ran back into the hills. It was much lighter on the logging road as the timber was cut away on both sides. The young Indian stopped and blew out his lantern and they all walked on along the road.

They came around a bend and a dog came out barking. Ahead were the lights of the shanties where the Indian bark-peelers lived. More dogs rushed out at them. the two Indians sent them back to the shanties. In the shanty nearest the road there was a light into the window. An old woman stood in the doorway holding a lamp.

Inside on a wooden bunk lay a young Indian woman. She had been trying to have her baby for two days. All the old women in the camp had been helping her. The men had moved off up the road to sit in the dark and smoke out of range of the noise she made. She screamed just as Nick and the two Indians followed his father and uncle George into the shanty. She lay in the lower bunk, very big under a quilt. Her head was turned to one side. In the upper bunk was her husband. He had cut his foot very badly with an axe three days before. He was smoking a pipe. The room smelled very bad.

Nick's father ordered some water to be put on the stove, and while it was heating he spoke to Nick.

'This lady is going to have a baby, Nick,' he said.

'I know,' said Nick.

'You don't know', said his father. 'Listen to me. What she is going through is called being in labor. The baby wants to be born and she wants it to be born. All her muscles are trying to get the baby born. That is what is happening when she screams;.

'I see,' Nick said.

Just then the woman cried out.

'Oh, daddy, can't you give her something to make her stop screaming?' asked Nick.

'No. I haven't any anaesthetic,' his father said. 'but her screams are not important. I don't hear them because they are not important.'

The husband in the upper bunk rolled over against the wall.

The woman in the kitchen motioned to the doctor that the water was hot. Nick's father went into the kitchen and poured about half of the water out of the big kettle into a basin. Into the water left in the kettle he put several things he unwrapped from a handkerchief.

'Those must boil,' he said, and began to scrub his hands in the basin of hot water with a cake of soap he had brought form the camp. Nick watched his father's hands scrubbing each other with the soap. While his father washed his hands very carefully and thoroughly, he talked.

'You see, Nick, babies are supposed to be born head first, but sometimes they're not. When they're not they make a lot of trouble for everybody. Maybe I'll have to operate on this lady. We'll know in a little while.'

When he was satisfied with his hands he went in and went to work.

'Pull back that quilt, will you, George?' he said. 'I'd rather not touch it.'

Later when he started to operate Uncle George and three Indian men held the woman still. She bit uncle George on the arm and uncle George said, 'Damn squaw bitch!' and the young Indian who had rowed Uncle George over laughed at him. Nick held the basin for his father. It all took a long time.

His father picked the baby up and slapped it to make it breathe and handed it to the old woman.

'See, it's a boy, Nick,' he said. 'How do you like being interne?'

Nick said, 'All right.' He was looking away so as not to see what his father was doing.

'There. That gets it,' said his father and put something into the basin.

Nick didn't look at it.

'Now,' his father said, 'there's some stitches to put in. You can watch this or not, Nick, just as you like, I'm going to sew up the incision I made.'

Nick did not watch. His curiosity had been gone for a long time.

His father finished and stood up. Uncle George and the three Indian men stood up. Nick put the basin out in the kitchen.

Uncle George looked at his arm. The young Indian smiled reminiscently.

'I'll put some peroxide on that, George,' the doctor said.

He bent over the Indian woman. She was quiet now and her eyes were closed. She looked very pale. She did not know what had become of the baby or anything.

'I'll be back in the morning,' the doctor said, standing up. 'The nurse should be here from St Ignace by noon and she'll bring everything we need.'

He was feeling exalted and talkative as football players are in the dressing-room after a game.

'That's one for the medical journal, George,' he said. 'Doing a Caesarian with a jack-knife and sewing it up with nine-foot, tapered gut leaders.'

Uncle George was standing against the wall, looking at his arm.

'Oh, you're a great man, all right,' he said.

'Ought to have a look at the proud father. They're usually the worst sufferers in these little affairs,' the doctor said. 'I must say he took it all pretty quietly.'

He pulled back the blanket from the Indian's head. His hand came away wet. He mounted on the edge of the lower bunk with the lamp in one hand and looked in. The Indian lay with his face toward the wall. His throat had been cut from ear to ear. The blood had flowed down into a pool where his body sagged the bunk. His head rested on his left arm. The open razor lay, edge up, in the blankets.

'Take Nick out of the shanty, George,' the doctor said.

There was no need of that. Nick, standing in the door of the kitchen, had a good view of the upper bunk when his father, the lamp in one hand tipped the Indian's head back. It was just beginning to be daylight when they walked along the logging road back toward the lake.

'I'm terribly sorry I brought you along, Nickie,' said his father, all his postoperative exhilaration gone. 'It was an awful mess to put you through.'

'Do ladies always have such a hard time having babies?' Nick asked.

'No, that was very, very exceptional.'

'Why did he kill himself, daddy?'

'I don't know, Nick. He couldn't stand things, I guess.'

'Do many men kill themselves, daddy?'

'Not very many, Nick.'

Do many women?

'Hardly ever.'

'Don't they ever?'

'Oh, yes. They do sometimes.'

'daddy?'

'Yes.'

'Where did uncle George go?'

'He'll turn up all right.'

'Is dying hard, daddy?'

'No, I think it's pretty easy, Nick. It all depends.'

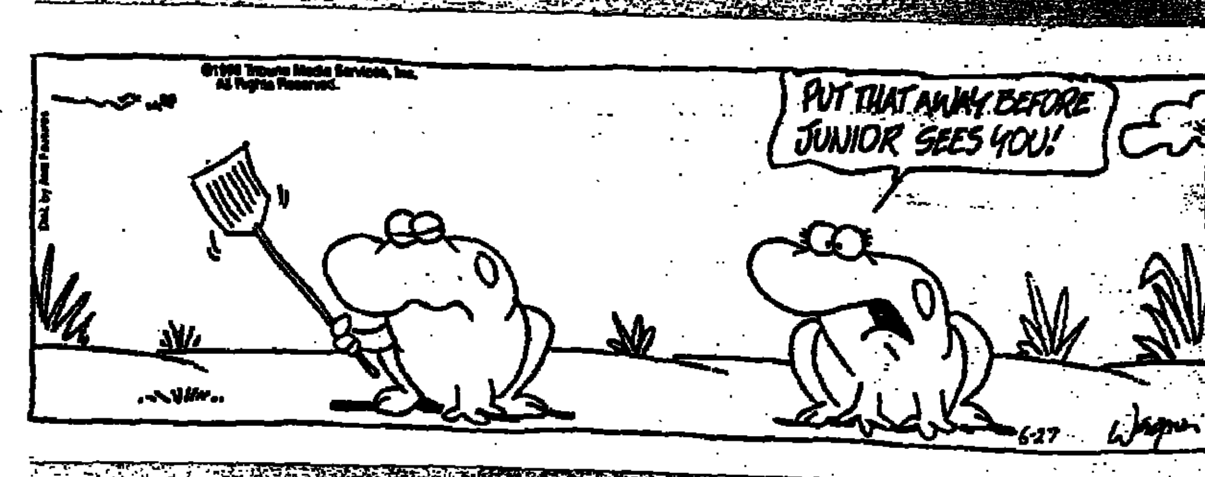
They were seated in the boat, Nick in the stern, his father rowing. The sun was coming up over the hills. A bass jumped, making a circle in the water. Nick trailed his hand in the water. It felt warm in the sharp chill of the morning.

In the early morning on the lake sitting in the stern of the boat with his father rowing, he felt quite sure that he would never die.

GRAFFITI









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Special Issue on Sacred Defense Week

Eight Years of Sacred Defense: Eight Years of Endeavor

Tehran Times Service

HRAN — On the occasion of Sacred Defense Week (Sept. -27) a round table was held at *Tehran Times* office attended senior military officers of the ny and Islamic Revolution ards Corps (IRGC). The partici- nts in the discussion titled 'Eight ears of Sacred Defense, Eight ears of Endeavor' were the Com- ander of IRGC's Hazrat Rasoul) Division 27 Brigadier General ohammad Kowsari, the Com- ander of the army's Zolfaqar ommando Division 58 Brigadier eneral Mohammad Mahmoudi, e Commander of the army's ommando Division 23 Brigadier eneral Kiumars Kiani, and the ommander of Brigade 2 of the my's Division 88, Colonel Seyed li Firoozi.

At the gathering, the participants laborated on the eight years of the ranian people's sacred defense gainst the Baathist aggressors and he Iraqi imposed war from its on- et up to the cease-fire and accept- ng UN Resolution 598 by the slamic Republic of Iran. They also raised the vital role played by hose martyred in safeguarding the orders of the Islamic land and paid tribute to the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini and underlined their commitment to his revolutionary path and ideals.

General Kowsari, a 41 year-old commander, opened the round table by expounding on the root of the Iraq's military aggression against Iran. He said, "Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Iran acted as the U.S. gendarme in the region, furthering the U.S. regional interests. However, in the postrevolution era, the Islamic Iran no longer bowed down to the U.S."

He went on to say that the U.S., in order to topple the Islamic government and install a puppet regime instead, prompted the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to wage a full-scale war on Iran.

General Mahmoudi, the 38-year old army commander, said, "The global arrogance headed by the U.S. left no stone unturned to overthrow the nascent Islamic system and hatched numerous plots to



KIANI

achieve its evil objectives, among which was waging a war on Iran. On the surface, the war seemed to be instigated by annulling the Algiers 1975 Treaty on Iraqi part, but it was actually masterminded by the global arrogance and in line with its evil schemes."

He further said that, at that time, Saddam Hussein was strongly supported financially and militarily by the U.S. and some other Western countries and also by the Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region. "Therefore, he hoped to reach Tehran within three days, not expecting in the least to confront the strong resistance of the Iranian nation, which bogged him down and checked his army's advance," he added.

General Kiani, the 45-year old army commander, pointed at the crucial role played by the popular forces in repulsing the Baathist invaders and halting their advance. He added, "Unfortunately, due to the fact that some of the government officials at the time of the Iraqi aggression were agents of arrogant powers, the army did not have an organized system and, therefore, it was not able to resist the Iraqi troops by itself. However, the volunteer popular forces rushed to the fronts to help the army and managed to bog down the Iraqi aggressors. It was evident that wherever there were popular forces the advance of the Iraqi army was halted, or the Iraqi troops were repulsed. In short, without the participation of the volunteers in the sacred defense against the aggressors, Iran could not prove victorious in the war."

Colonel Firoozi, the 36-year old brigade commander, said, "The Iranian people's sacred defense was not only of a military nature, but it also had ideological aspects because the Iranian combatants fought for the cause of the Almighty."

He added, "The Islamic Revolution enjoys the full support of the masses. That is why it can always thwart the plots hatched by the enemies of Islam."

Brigadier General Kowsari described the unity and solidarity of the people as the key factor that brought about the victory of the Islamic Revolution and also as the basis for the Iranian people's victory in the Iraqi imposed war. He added, "During the first days of the war, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) did not have enough weapons and ammunition; however, the stalwart Iranian people offered such strong resistance against the Baathist invaders and gave them such a lesson that the enemies will never dare to launch any military aggression against the Islamic land in the future."

Citing an example of the Iranian people's resistance to the Iraqi aggressors during the first days of the imposed war, General Kowsari said that the staunch people in Ahvaz, Khuzestan Province, resisted the Iraqi invaders and halted their advance merely by building bulwarks and did not allow even a single inch of the Iranian territory to be annexed to Iraq.

General Mahmoudi, referring to the self-sacrifice of the Iranian nation, said that the women played an outstanding role in the sacred defense. "The women, while in cities and far from the fronts, did their utmost to extend aid to their beloved ones fighting at the fronts. Through bringing up their children in accordance with the Islamic principles, they played a significant part in achieving the objectives of the Islamic Revolution," he added.

Giving a general description of the imposed war, General Mahmoudi said that the global arrogance, in addition to masterminding the military aggression, applied economic sanctions against Iran in order to topple the Islamic government by using both military and economic instruments. But as the world witnessed, he added, the Islamic forces through conducting numerous operations at all fronts cleared the Iranian territory of the Baathist aggressors.

Underlining the point that the first year of the war was of defensive and the following years of offensive nature, General Kowsari noted that the former President, Abolhassan Banisadr, was in fact an obstacle to full-scale operations against the Iraqi aggressors. However, the general added, after he fled the country, the Islamic combatants began to launch vast operations.

General Kiani said that when the Iraqi invaders felt they were unable to confront the Islamic forces at the fronts, they started firing missiles at oil tankers and bombing the civilians and deploying chemical weapons, demonstrating that they do not abide by any international rules.

On the reasons for Iraq's resorting to bombing the Iranian cities and chemical warfare, Colonel Firoozi said, "Islam has guidelines regarding war and forbids Muslims from applying unfair means and the Iranian combatants conformed to the Islamic directions in this regard. But, the Iraqi forces used the weapons forbidden by Islam and, thus, expressed their indifference and lack of adherence to Islamic principles."

He added that the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, leaning on the U.S. for its military support, disregarded all international laws and made every effort to achieve his evil objectives. "The world admits that Iraq used every weapon accessible to it in its war against Iran. In other words, it tested all weapons manufactured by the arrogant powers," Firoozi noted.

Brigadier General Mahmoudi elaborated on the role played by the terrorist Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) in supporting the Baathist troops. He said, "When the terrorist MKO members were expelled from France, no country granted them entry visa except Iraq. Thus, they turned into subservient agents of Saddam Hussein and did their utmost to help Iraq in its war on Iran. They also used the Iraqi territory as a base for their counterrevolutionary activities against the Islamic Republic of Iran."



KOWSARI

Mahmoudi went on to say that the terrorist MKO members not only had no religious beliefs, but they also did away with their national interests and started hatching plots against their homeland "Ultimately, they launched Mersad operations against Iran in 1988 which, as their previous operations, ended in utter defeat," he added.

Elsewhere in the course of the discussion, Brigadier General Kowsari expounded on the malicious nature of the global arrogance, which is opposed to establishing substantive peace in the world, and Iran's reasons for refusing to accept the imposed peace in 1982. He said, "In the days when the international bodies were putting forward the idea of peace, the Iraqi forces were still inside Iranian territory. Besides, the international bodies were not willing to call on Iraq to withdraw its troops from the Iranian territory, nor did they officially declare Iraq to be the aggressor. They did not submit to Iran's conditions for peace either. Consequently, the late leader of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini, through his insight and wisdom, rejected the peace proposal."

He added, "The peace plan was masterminded in such a way that it served the interests of the



MAHMOUDI

global arrogance and the Iraqi aggressors. That is why the big powers insisted that Iran should yield to the peace proposal. As a matter of fact, the arrogant powers, which masterminded the imposed war on Iran, tried to force Iran to submit to an imposed peace."

The next issue discussed at the gathering was the current regional situation and the duties of the armed forces in this regard. Brigadier General Kiani commented that, as long as Saddam Hussein is in power, tensions are likely to break out in the region any time and that the Iranian armed forces should maintain their complete preparedness.

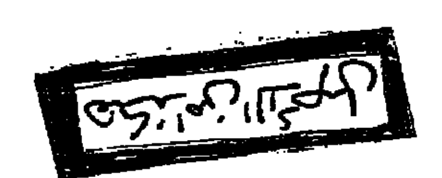
He added, "With the lesson given by the staunch armed forces and dedicated people of Iran to the enemies in the course of eight years of sacred defense, I don't think any country can dare to launch military aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the future."

(Contd on Pg. 3)



Messenger Of Resistance

Sacred Defense, Martyrs, Devotees and Liberation of [illegible] Day







Sequence of War Events

6th Day — September 27, 1980

Imam Khomeini Rejects Any Intervention and Compromise

On the sixth day, enemy forces continued their intense fire and bombardment of different areas of Khuzestan. Their efforts to enter Khorramshahr and Abadan and to besiege Ahwaz came to naught. With forces stationed in Qasr-e-Shirin, the continued resistance of the Muslim combatants of Iran nonetheless prevented the city from total collapse. On the other hand, the situation of the Muslim combatants in Sar Pol-e-Zahab improved. The enemy continued its advance, however, south of Qasr-e-Shirin towards Gilan Gharb.

The enemy's planes supported their ground forces, bombarding military centers and civilian areas and inflicting human and material losses. On the other hand, Iranian planes bombarded several garrisons and military bases of the enemy and destroyed a number of their bridges and military roads.

• *Political Implications:*

Six days after the outbreak of the war, Iraqi advances slackened, their forces feeling desperate about achieving their predetermined objectives in Khuzestan. The state of affairs prodded the rulers in Baghdad to come to a cease-fire. Efforts of peace delegations intensified and political pressure mounted on Iran to accept a cease-fire. Tehran, on the one hand, voiced interest in conditional talks, but the late Imam Khomeini and other top authorities strongly rejected any form of compromise and intervention. The United States and its allies increased the number of their fleets in the Persian Gulf to protect shipping and to keep the Strait of Hormuz open. Carter's administration announced readiness to meet Iran's need for military spareparts in talks scheduled between the two countries. The decision was made in order to gain the release of American hostages taken hostage in Tehran.

Among US allies, France's stand openly differed from that of the others. The French thus far tried to show their impartiality in the war to discourage superpowers from intervening in the war. When Iraq stood to be defeated in the war, however, they unveiled their support for it.

What Did They Say? What Did We Claim?

Tehran Times Service

International Herald Tribune.

"Iraq attack on Iraq created increased concern in Washington; this led to the dispatch to Saudi Arabia of U.S. AWACS aircrafts and the stepped up deployment of naval forces in the area by the United States and its allies, including France." 10/10/83

- If we reversed the process, wasn't it more true to say that in order to deploy their evil forces closer to Iran for a probable direct clash they themselves created the smoke screen of the Iraqi Imposed War?

The Guardian

"Iraq has withdrawn behind its international border." 10/10/83

- Would you ever stop telling lies?

"The French have important interests, including heavy Iraqi unpaid debts for previous supplies." 10/10/83

- You meant they were kicking themselves for backing the wrong horse.

Morning Star

"The Iranian Revolution is on the brink of collapse." 8/9/83

- Had this statement anything to do with the Iranians' refusal to slip under the Soviet influence after rejecting the U.S. interference decisively?

"The Revolution of 1979 was a national liberation victory under the leadership of revolutionary democrats." 8/9/83

- It was an Islamic Revolution and nothing else. Those who gave their lives to become martyrs, didn't do it for atheism or materialism; they did it for Islam only. When they came out of their houses to defy the bullets with the call of Allah-o-Akbar, this obviously signified their wish for Islamization of their country. The minority who took part in such a revolution with other ambitions were bound to be disappointed: some sooner and some later. The Leadership of our Islamic Revolution has always been with Imam Khomeini.

New York Times

"The United Nations subcommittee on human rights called on Iran to conform to international conventions and stop recruiting..." 8/9/83

- Did the failure of the United Nations in calling on Iraq to withdraw its forces from Iran mean that it approved such aggression?

Or were we to understand that "Swiss-based humanitarian organizations" or the U.N. "subcommission human rights" for that matter, were more interested in fooling around with the effects rather than focusing their attention on the cause?

The Times

"M.Cheysson said, That which we do not deliver to Iraq will be delivered by the Russians!" 10/10/83

- As if this would make them any lesser of an evil.

"The French maintained that the Super-Etendards would have a dissuasive effect." 10/10/83

- What effect did you say?

"The Super-Etendards left the air base in western France with French pilots at the control." 10/10/83

- Did you mean they didn't trust the Iraqi pilots? We don't blame them.

The Financial Times

"Iraq said it would block Iranian oil shipments unless it is allowed to export its own oil through Persian Gulf waters." 10/10/83

- In other words, upon complete failure at the battle front, Saddam the saboteur, was thinking of attacking Iranian economic points.

"A spokesman in Paris for the Iranian Kurds' political party said it is not its policy to hold on to towns." 10/10/83

- Because they couldn't for the fact that the townspeople would reject them immediately. These bandits could only terrorize some isolated villagers.

"Iraq's Foreign Minister said that Iraq would not allow 'this freak situation to continue any longer'." 10/10/83

- You had only yourself to blame; you started the war; you shouk have known better.

The Financial Times

"Referring to Iran's threat to close the straits of Hormuz, he (Cheyson) said such a step would be 'suicidal' for Tehran as it would block its own oil export." 11/10/83

- Perhaps we didn't need it as such, but could you do without oil?

"Iraq has had scant success in its air attacks against tankers going to Iran since 1980." 11/10/83

- Why nobody objected to such attacks? One couldn't help but wonder whether this signified an international conspiracy against Iran, allowing Iraq to commit any form of crime.

"Iran has been able to restore a healthy level of oil exports, sufficient to finance the war and resume a degree of economic development. It is to this battle that the delivery of the Super-Etendard is addressed." 11/10/83

- Why should Iran's development hurt anybody, what a strange world you lived in !!

"It (Iraq) will remain to an extent dependent on the hitherto generous financial assistance provided by Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf oil-exporting countries." 11/10/83

- You knew very well that it's not just "financial assistance" that was being "provided", but the question was how deeply they were involved?

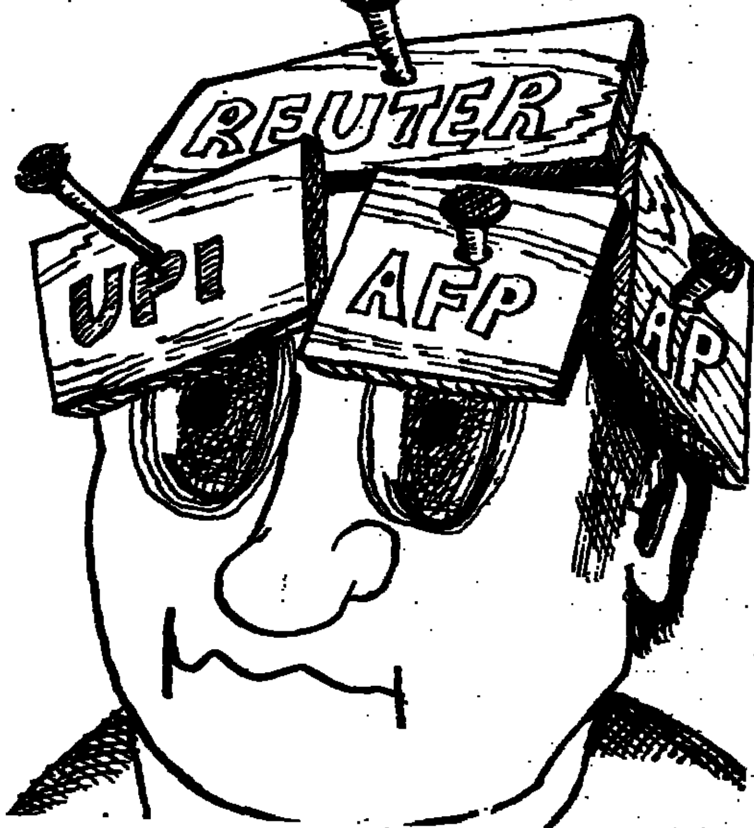
"Paris argues that an Iranian victory would be the worst possible outcome to the war" 11/10/83

- Why should this affect a country which claimed to be democratic? Perhaps, it was not what it claimed to be.

"What still remains unclear is when the aircrafts will be operational for use in the Persian Gulf area." 12/10/83

- Now, who was getting impatient?

"U.S. warships sent to guard Persian Gulf oil link." 10/10/83



The Daily Telegraph

- Since when did it need the U.S. guardianship?

"Attacks against Iran's oil would put a strong economic squeeze on Tehran." 10/10/83

- The Iraqi's defeat in the battlefield wasn't so much an economic phenomenon of oil export shortfalls the Iraqi soldiers did not have incentive to fight.

"The Persian Gulf war took a dangerous turn yesterday when President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, accepted delivery of five French Super-Etandard..." 11/10/83

- He was dying to get hold of them, never mind the "accepting" bit!

"The Foreign Office's reluctance to give details strongly indicated that it had been told by the French to mind its own business." 11/10/83

- Meaning precisely what?

"They would reason that any retaliation against an airfield actually on Iranian soil could be very difficult internationality." 11/10/83

- You meant after the American's disastrous failure to militarily invade Iran with its strongest mercenary task force, no one else would dare to challenge Iranian security.

"The new American Central Command cannot actually base forces in the area without the imidiate invitation of the countries concerned." 11/10/83

- We didn't remember Grenada inviting the American marines. Don't tell us that you had made another false statement, or perhaps Reagan thought he was playing cow-boys and Indians.

A Report on the Use of Chemical Weapons by the Iraqi Forces

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate and Most Merciful

In the beginning of the imposed war, the Iraqi forces resorted to using chemical weapons, for the first time and on a limited scale, in Shalamcheh, southernmost point of the area then under the Iraqi occupation. The victims of this first attack, whose exact number is not available now, suffered from dizziness and nervous disorders which followed their inhaling of a certain gas. The next incident took place in Meymak.

A shot while after these incidents, on Jan. 13. 1980, in an area between Helaleh and Ney-Khazar, Iraqi chemical weapons claimed lives of at least seven combatants who had put up a stiff resistance against the aggressors.

In 1982 along with the unremitting chain of offensives launched by the Iranian forces, in order to push the enemy back from the occupied lands, the Iraqi use of chemical warfare too was stepped up to an extent that eleven separate instances of chemical attacks have been recorded during that year. From the beginning of 1983 up to launching of the Kheibar operations of Feb. 22. 1984, Iraq resorted to employing chemical weapons in various areas along the border between the two countries a total of thirty one times.

For instance, on Aug. 9. 1983, Iraq used chemical weapons against Piranshahr and Tamarchin in the northwest Iran, martyring or wounding about 170. A number of the victims of these attacks were visited by the international media stationed in Tehran Dr. Nasser Jalali, a dermatologist, and head of the dermatology ward in the Loqman al-Doleh Hospital of Tehran, declared: "The injuries of those involved have been caused by exposure to toxic agents which have been released in the atmosphere in forms of gas, liquid or powder. The preliminary tests carried out by the chemico-pharmaceutical center of the School of Pharmacy of Tehran University, have shown that the weapons of delivery had released a toxic chemical called "Nitrogen mustard" or "Mustard gas."

On Oct. 22, 1983 Iraqi forces employed poison gas in Quch Soltan of Sardush area incapacitating a number of the Muslim combatants. Dr. Mahmoud Laleh, the head of Loqman al – Doleh Hospital, reports on the condition of the injured combatants as follows:

Nov. 1st, 1983
Ref. No. 8337
In the name of Allah

Admission report to Loqman al Doleh Hospital of the injured of chemical bombs.

Some eleven Basij, IRGC and army personnel are being treated at the emergency and dermatological wards of this hospital for injuries caused by toxic chemicals.

The contamination occurred Oct. 22, 1983 somewhere along Marivan-Quch-Soltan axis as follows. At about 21:30 hours, following the explosion of an Iraqi artillery shell, thick smoke envelopes the area, and gradually a smell like that of kerosine pervades the air. The next morning the men listed above were afflicted with nausesa, vomiting, lachrymation and burning of eyes, blurred vision, itaching, suffocation, coughing, loss of appetite. When they were examined at this medical center, skin damages were observed on their bodies in the form of blisters, discoloration and cyanosis particularly on the wrinkled parts of their skin. At the moment medical examinations of required tests are being carried out on them as part of their overall treatment.

Dr. Mahmoud Laleh

Head of Loqman al-Doleh Hospital



Meanwhile, even the residential areas did not escape the lethal effects of the Iraqi chemical weapons On Oct. 21. 23. 25. 28. 1983 the villages around Baneh, including Seyed-Lu, Bademjan and Bayanjan were subjected to chemical attacks, as a result of which many villagers of this Kurdish district including women and children were severely injured and some were blinded.

Upon the outset of Kheibar operation, on Feb. 22, 1984. the Iraqi regime finding itself incapable of resisting against the relentless drive of the Iranian forces, resorted to a massive use of chemical weapons. The series of the chemical attacks which started on Feb. 26 had left over 2700 injured and 40 martyred by March 21, 1984. According to the available data the Iraqi forces within 27 days from the launching of the Kheibar offensive employed chemical weapons at least sixteen times. On Feb. 26 and 27 alone several chemical bombs were dropped over the positions of the Iranian forces which left over 1100 injured.

- One of the victims of the attacks, Ali-Akbar Fameeli, from the Basij popular forces speaking to a group of foreign journalists in Labbafi-Nezhad Hospital in Tehran, described the Iraqi attack as follows:

"It was Monday morning Feb. 27, 1984 when shortly after we heard some Iraqi planes flying overhead, we noticed that our equipment were covered with some black stuff. All of a sudden and without our awareness a dark, thin layer of some unknown substance had settled within a very extensive area on our weapons and whatever else was out in the upon.

"Then we experienced a sharp burning and itching sensation in our nostrils, which as followed with shortness of breath and chocking. Within six hours from the exposure, such symptoms as blurred vision, eye irritation, and a painful sensation on sensitive parts of the body appeared on most of us."

Dr. Hamid Sohrab-pur, the Head of Labbafi-Nezhad Hospital in Tehran, in which over 200 combatants injured by chemical weapons are confined, has submitted the following report:

Labbafi Nezhad Medical Center

Pasdaran Ave. Boostan 9 St. Tehran

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate and Most Merciful

Since the beginning of the Kheibar operation up to the present more than 200 chemically wounded soldiers have been admitted in Labbafi-Nezhad Medical Center, which are described below:

A. Skin burns - from grade I to grade I I I on different parts of their body surface mostly on the face, and more than 70M of the body surface.

B. Eye irritation, conjunctivitis, corneal abrasion: Almost all of the patients experience burning sensation, lachrymation, photophobia, and later some develop blurred vision. Fortunately the outcome of this problem so far has not been discouraging.

C. Respiratory problem, upper air way involvement: All of the patients complain of burning sensation in the chest and signs of pharyngitics and bronchitis. They have paroxysmal cough, expectoration and shortness of breath. Physical examination reveals generalized wheeze and rhonchi in severe forms of which patients develop respiratory distress syndrome and pulmonary oedema. At this stage they develop hypoxemia which does not respond to 02 therapy and they require mechanical ventilation and in this stage the prognosis is poor.

D. G.I. problems consist of dysphagia, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, compared to the other symptoms G.I. problems seem to be less frequent.

E. Hematological problems seem to be the most serious ones-after 5 to 7 days of exposure they develop pancytopenia. W.B. C. falls belows 500 at this stage and all of the patients are febrile and develop respiratory distress-and this seems to be the terminal event.

Treatment of these patients is mostly symptomatic and supportive. It seems that the prognosis depends on the following factors:

1) amount of exposure
2) severity of skin burns
3) development of hematological complication and consequent infections process
4) degree of hypoxemia

It seems that the toxic material has been mustard gas.

Head of Labbafi-Nezhad Hospital

Dr. Hamid Sohrab pour

The Austrian doctors treating ten injured combatants, have identified the cause of the injuries as toxic agents of various descriptions.

In a radio broadcast interview, Dr. Herbert Mandel, head of the CCU section of Akaha Hospital in Vienna declared: "According to analyses conducted in the toxicological laboratory of the city of Ghent, Belgium, the Iranian soldiers had been exposed to a toxic chemical called mycotoxin, differently known as yellow rain or mustard gas. The subsequent tests have further supported this prognosis." (AP, March 10, 1984)

Says Herbert Benzer head of the intensive care section of the second surgical clinic of Vienna: "The symptoms that the patients under my treatment show are similar to those recorded during the World War I in relations with soldiers who had been exposed to mustard gas." (Reuter, March 1984).

Meanwhile, professor Hendriks the noted European toxicologist and head of the Toxicological Institute of the Ghent University, of Belgium, on March 13, 1984 said: "It could be demonstrated on the basis of the conducted tests that the patients under treatment have been affected by mustard gas (yellow rain) mycotoxin and fungous poison."

The use of the poison gas by the Iraqi forces was also corroborated by medical mission of the Intentional Committee of the Red Cross which visited the victims of the Iraqi chemical attacks in Tehran hospitals. The International Red Cross which visited the victims of the Iraqi chemical attacks in Tehran hospitals. The International Red Cross in a statement issued in this connection declared:

"Upon the request of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran the International Red Cross commissioned on March 6, 1984, a medical team to visit a number of patients confined in some of the hospitals in Tehran.

"All the symptoms observed on 160 injured combatants pointed to a disturbing conclusion that the injuries had been caused by certain chemicals whose production and use have been outlawed by the international regulations. The common symptoms appearing on all the patients area as follow: advanced but superficial burns of first and second degree severe respiratory complications, conjunctivitis and corneal abrasion which change favorably into several different developments. However, the clinical developments observed after eight days from the initial visit included hematological problems, drastic reduction of white blood cells (leukopenia). These complications which result from renal and pulmonary problems led to some fatalities among the injured, two of which occurred while the medical team was visiting the hospital.

"Considering the large number of casualties, a condition which is aggravated by the relatively unidentified cause of the injuries, and with a view to the disturbing consequences, the International Red Cross emphatically reminds that the use of toxic agents in battlefields is in blatant contradiction to all humanitarian principles and violates the common law and martial regulations."

On March, 5, '84 the representatives of the diplomatic missions in Tehran, visited the victims of Iraq's massive chemical attacks confined in Labbafi-Nezhad Hospital in Tehran, and interviewing the victims as well as their physicians, were briefed on the inhuman measures of the Iraqi regime.

The Iraqi use of chemical weapons against the Iranian forces in Hur-ul Hoveizeh was so extensive that it was condemned by several countries and international organizations even the U.S. was compelled to censure the Baghdad regime for perpetrating it. In its March 9. '84 issue the American daily, "New York Times", quoting informed sources, wrote: "There is sufficient evidence available to the Reagan Administration to prove the recent charges brought against Iraq that she had used chemical weapons against Iran."

Britain and France which were themselves harshly accused of selling chemical weapons to Iraq,

(Contd on Pg. 7)

MILITARY AID TO IRAQ

Classification	Type	Country	Amount	Price (US$)	Date
Ordnance	Cluster Bomb Units	Chile	-	-	March 1984
Support	*Astros II* Multiple Rocket Launchers	Brazil	6	60m	June 1984
Armor	*Shir* Main Battle Tank	U.K.	-	-	December 1983
Missiles	SS-12 *Schaleboard*	U.S.S. R.			January 1984
Missiles	SS-21	U.S.S.R.	-	-	May 1984
Aircrafts	*Super Etandard*	France	6	-	October 1983
Chemicals	Mustard Gas Ingredients	U.S.A.	2 tons	-	January 1984
Chemicals	Mycotoxins	U.S.S.R.	-	-	-

Note: There were also several other suppliers of arms to Iraq, namely Egypt and Jordan. While being the fourth largest supplier of arms to Iraq there were no indications that China had supplied Iraq with any new arms since the outbreak of hostilities. There were also several parties who were active in shadow arms deal on Iraq's behalf.



FRANCE

French Socialist President Francois Mitterrand announced in July of 1981 that, "No arms sales will be made by this country to those Arab countries which are engaged in war." This apparently clear stance was not regarded with much certainty by informed political circles, since French governments, from the very beginning of France's rise as a world power, have presented an uncertain and unreliable image on every foreign policy issue.

It was not long before the deceiving nature of this statement was known to the world: When the world mass media reported the possibility of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Azziz traveling to France. It became clear that such a trip during a time of war couldn't be a simple diplomatic mission, but that other issues such as arms purchases and the speedy delivery of Mirage fighters to Iraqi Air Force would be deliberated.

Paris was seeking to prepare world public opinion for the outcome of Tareq Azziz's visit to France. Therefore, Claudé Cheysson, Mitterrand's Foreign Minister, announced, "No arms will be sold to those countries which are engaged in war, but Iraq will receive the Mirage fighters it bought three years ago."

Tareq Azziz finally arrived in Paris for a visit in August 1981. He met with members of Mitterrand's cabinet including Defense Minister Charles Herault and Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. Agence France Presse reported that Cheysson announced after his talks with Azziz that, "France and Iraq have reached an agreement to continue cooperation in all fields." Of course, we cannot exempt military cooperation from 'all fields'; this was confirmed by another news item from AFP stating that. "Tareq Azziz apparently talked with Herault about the possible sale of new weapons to Iraq, including Mirage F.1 and Mirage 2000 fighters."

Meanwhile, during his stay in France, Tareq Azziz in an interview with *Le Monde* stressed hat France had expressed its readiness to increase arms sales to Iraq. Following this interview, Reuters quoted the French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy as saying he had had, "Comprehensive and thorough talks with Azziz regarding military issues" and that he had, "promised Azziz to continue the talks."

The talks between the two countries continued after Azziz's departure from France as Mr. Mauroy had promised. The Lebanese daily *Al-Nahar* in a commentary on October 22, 1981, wrote "So far important contracts have been signed between the two sides. One of these contracts, signed on a completely secret basis early October of this year (about one and a half months after Azziz returned to Iraq), supplies Iraq with 155-millimeter guns at a total cost of 4.4 billion French francs."

Al-Nahar in another part of its commentary quoted Agence France Presse: "French, British and Italian military delegations are regularly visiting Baghdad. A group of French experts which has traveled to Iraq is studying the possibility of modifying the fueling system of the Mirage 1 jet-fighter, 29 of which have recently been added to the Iraqi army."

Al-Nahar also referred to a French company by the name of Thomson P.I.F., which had sold equipment totaling 8 billion francs to Iraq during the past 2 years, saying, negotiations (with the Iraqi government) by the Thomson Company regarding the sale of electronic equipment for military purposes worth 3.5 billion francs have reached the final stages."

It is worth mentioning that at the time of the presidency of Giscard D'Estaing, France sold arms totaling 2 billion dollars to Iraq, including planes and helicopters. Delivery of these arms is continuing uninterrupted. In addition, based on certain semiofficial estimates, Iraqi orders to France exceeded 10 billion francs in 1981, and France was as well supposed to deliver 3 billion dollars worth of these orders to Iraq by the end of the year. According to Reuters, France is second only to the Soviet Union as the chief arms supplier of Iraq.

The important results of Tareq Azziz's visit to Paris were increased arms delivery to Iraq by France and the speedy implementation of bilateral military agreements. In addition to these, decisions were made to increase the quality of some weapons, and the possibility of selling Mirage 2000 fighters on the purchase list of the Iraqi deputy prime minister was discussed.

France, in reality, had never ceased its military support to Iraq, contrary to France's claim that, "No arms sales will be made by this country to those Arab countries which are engaged in war", arms sales and delivery of hardware had continued uninterrupted from the very beginning of the Iraqi invasion. A summary of these arms deliveries follows:

1. According to a reliable source, a ship from French ports destined for Iraq carrying 140 tanks, 240 armored personnel carriers and a large amount of ammunition for artillery docked in Aqaba Port on October 6, 1980.

2. In late January 1981, France delivered four Mirage 1 bombers — the most sophisticated planes of the French Air Force — to Iraqi pilots in Cyprus. Prior to this delivery, France had put 100 tanks and 6 helicopters at the disposal of Iraq. Officials of the French Embassy in Baghdad later admitted the delivery of the aforementioned arms and equipment.

3. According to informed sources, in February 1981, 2 Boeing 707's carrying French surface-to-air missiles landed at Baghdad airport. These were to be used against Iranian jet fighters.

4. During the first half of April 1981, French arms dealers arrived in Baghdad, and, staying in the only 5-star hotel in Iraq, concluded more arms agreements.

5. In late April, 1981, Radio Israel in its news program reported that, "Iraq has recently received missiles from France which could be used by Soviet warplanes." According to this broadcast, France had produced these missiles particularly for Iraq. A Kuwaiti newspaper reported that these missiles were being used in the war fronts against Iran.

6. The French weekly *Jeune Afrique* on June 10, 1981, in an article entitled, "Iraq in a Cautious Game", while confirming the French Mirage delivery to Iraq, wrote, "French planes are constantly carrying weapons, ammunition, and spare parts to Iraq. Delivery of helicopters and various missiles is still going on." The magazine added that talks between the two countries aimed at concluding huge contracts for the latest models of ground and air weapons had gained momentum, and that France had become the chief ally of Iraq.

7. The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), from London and quoting an English publication, reported on July 12, 1981 that the 'Marta' arms factory, one of the biggest manufacturers of air weapons, electronic equipment and Magique air-to-air missiles, had sold 200 million dollars of its shares to Iraq and said Arabia. IRNA considered this a prelude to huge shipment of modern military equipment to Arab countries.

8. A confirmed report stated that from the end of 1980 to April 1981 France sent 100 heavy armored vehicles and a number of super Puma helicopters with 360 'Hot' missiles to Iraq.

Ex-Soviet Union

The following is just a glimpse of some of this aid. Here only the aid from the ex-Soviet Union to Iraq after the start of the war is dealt with.

1. Radio Denmark in the second half of the first month of the war reported: "Long military columns can be seen between the supply roads of Amman and Baghdad carrying Soviet-made weapons and ammunition. These arms are being unloaded in Aqaba Port."

Several days before this, the ex-Soviet Union had sought to supply Iraq with armaments by air and sea, but planes and ships carrying these weapons were not able to unload due to the vigilance of the Air Force and the Navy of Iran.

2. The *Financial Times* of London reported on October 3, 1980 that the Soviet Union had continued its arms deliveries to Iraq since the inception of the war.

3. On October 6, 1980, a reliable source reported the arrival of Soviet-made weapons in Aqaba Port and their deliver to Iraq through , the Amman-Baghdad Road. This source pointed out that in a recent meeting between the deputy commander of the Soviet Ground Forces with King Hussein of Jordan in Amman, the two sides agreed that these arms be sent to Iraq through Jordan.

4. *United Press* during the first days of October 1980, quoting informed sources, reported that "Iraq is receiving ammunition and spare parts continuously from the Soviet Union through Aqaba Port in the Red Sea. Accorrding to these sources, these shipments are unloaded in the ports of Oman, South Yemen, and Massaveh in Ethiopia and then are c carried to Iraq through various means including Aqaba Port."

5. Agence France Press in mid-October 1980 reported nearly 40 ships belonging to the Soviet Union and its allies docked in Aqaba Port to unload arms and military spare parts for the Iraqi government.

6. The daily *Die Welt* of West Germany on February 4, 1981 wrote: "During the past two weeks, nearly 100 Soviet-made armored T-54 and T-55 vehicles supplied from arsenals of the eastern block located in East Germany and Poland have been delivered to Iraq. These armaments were sent to Iraqi borders through Dubba Port of Saudi Arabia. Political observers and military experts believed that it was unlikely that the Soviet allies put these weapons at the disposal of Iraq — without Soviet consent. This fact can be deduced from the statements of Tareq Azziz, member of the Command Council of the Revolution of Iraq, who said, "Iraq has in turn expressed eagerness to continue its friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. This willingness is mainly due to the fact that we have been able to get Soviet-made weapons and ammunition from Eastern Europe and other places."

7. Almost at the beginning of February 1981, the daily *Le Quotidien de Paris* printed a report similar to that of *Die Welt*. It reported that, "The Soviet Union has chosen Saudi Arabia as a go-between for sending its tanks to Iraq and strengthening its army. These tanks, which have been unloaded in the Yanbuc Port by the Red Sea, consist of T.55 tanks, which are being loaded by Iraqi trucks."

Le Quotidien added, "The peaceful port of Yanbuc which is located north of Jeddah and Mecca by the Red Sea, has lost its peacefulness since some weeks ago, and Soviet ships have been unloading tanks of which so far over 150 have been re-loaded by Iraqi tank-carriers."

8. On January 4, 1981, the Tehran daily, *Sobh-e-Azadegan*, quoting a dispatch from its reporter in Ahvaz, announced that the Soviet Union had recently put 150 T-72 tanks at the disposal of the Iraqi Army.

9. On August 12, 1981, according to a reliable source, a large number of cars carrying new Soviet-made personnel carriers with the colors of the Iraqi Army passed by Turkish raillines from the border city of Karseb of Arzroom, and then most probably through the cities of Malatia, Ghaianteb, Kamishli and through Syrian territory to the Iraqi city of Musel. If we rule out the possibility of carrying these armaments through Syrian territory due to Syria's opposition there must have been other linking roads between Malatia, the Bekr area and Sirt.

10. On August 21, 1981, according to eye witnesses, a Soviet ship named the "Academic" was unloading military hardware in No. 20 jetty of Shuucayhiyah in Kuwait. These goods were apparently then transported to Iraq.

11. According to eye witnesses, on August 26, 1981, a Soviet ship named 'Captain Bedvit', which was carrying goods to Iraq, was unloading in Shucaybiyah jetty. Apparently even Kuwaiti officials were not allowed to approach the ship and only Iraqi agents stationed in the country directed the operation.

12. On November 3, 1981 the newsletter of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq quoting the British *Daily Mail* wrote: "At present, the Soviet Union is establishing a full system of air defense for Iraq, and last week five Soviet experts along with two security officers arrived in Baghdad to supervise the project. "This air defense network consists of 4 main parts: a) special platforms for launching Sam-9 missiles at planes at low altitude, b) Sam-2 & Sam-3 anti-aircraft missiles for planes flying at high altitude, c) mobile systems of Sam-8 & Sam-9, d) anti-aircraft batteries which aim at planes by radar.

13. On December 9, 1981, the Iranian Pars News Agency quoted the Kuwaiti daily *Al-Siyasah* as reporting that the Soviet Union in order to implement its military pact with Iraq had sent 25 MiG fighter planes and T-62 and T-72 tanks to Iraq. According to this paper, Soviet tanks were sent to Iraq by Ationev-22 planes which can carry and unload tanks at the battlefields. (Contd on Pg. 7)



Chronology of United Nations Negotiations to End the Iran-Iraq War

Informal and Unofficial Background Note

PART 5

March 12

Report of mission of sepcialists issued, confirming the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iranian forces on many occasions.

March 21

President of the Security Council issues a statement strongly condemning the use of chemical weapons by Iraq against Iranain forces as well as the prolongation of the conflict, and expresses concern over the risk of an extension of the conflict to other states.

July 3

Secretary-General repeats call for halt to attacks on civilian areas, offers to reactivate inspection teams and reiterates offer of his good offices to end the conflict.

August 14

Secretary-General states he is gratified that statements by the Iranian and Iraqi Governments indicate that both sides desire to refrain from attacks on civilian areas, and calls for restoration of moratorium. He expresses grave alarm over escalation of the conflict and calls for its end.

August 29

Security Council expresses great concern over the possible escalation of the Persian Gulf war and the widening attacks on merchant shipping and civilian targets. It endorses the Secretary-General's continuing efforts, especially in the domain of chemical weapons, and attacks on civilian areas.

October 3

Secretary-General, in a statement to the Security Council, notes the depth of international alarm over the prolongation and escalation of the Iran/Iraq war. He emphasizes the urgency of the situation and stresses the necessity for the Security Council to establish a basis for negotiation acceptatable to both parties.

October 8

Security Council resolution 588 (1986) expresses deep alarm over the prolongation and escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, and calls upon both parties to fully implement resolution 582 (1986). The resolution requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts and report to the Council by 30 November 1986.

November 26

Secretary-General's report to the Security Council, in compliance with resolution 588 (1986), conveys positions of Iran and Iraq on resolution 582 (1986) as well as on general and specific issues in the conflict. He concludes that the differences between the two sides prevent specific proposals to implement resolution 582. He also draws attention to the growing danger in the region from attacks on merchant shipping. He asks Council to persevere in effrots to establish a basis for securing cooperation of Iran and Iraq.

December 22

President of Security Council expresses Council's serious concern at the situation, deplores violations of international humanitarian law and urges Secretary-General to continue his efforts.

December 31

Secretary-General reports to Security Council on 101 incidents in the Persian Gulf.

1987

January 13

Secretary-General, at press conference, calls for a new approach, namely a more determined joint effort by members of the Security Council, and in particular the five permanent members. Secretary-General provides members of the Security Council with some elements which could be used as a basis for their common work.

January 16

Statement by President of the Security Council expressing concern over escalating hostilities, appealing to the parties to comply with Security Council resolutions 592 (1986) and 588 (1986), expressing appreciation for the Secretary-General's efforts and urging him to persevere in those efforts.

January 26

Secretary-General, at Islamic Summit in Kuwait, makes proposals aimed at breaking the impasse in mediation.

February

The five permanent members of the Security Council start working as a group on the question of the war between Iran and Iraq.

May 8

Report of United Nations investigative mission confirms repeated use of chemical weapons by Iraqi forces against Iranian forces.

May 14

Security Council statement condemns repeated use of chemical weapons, also condemns prolongation of conflict, expresses concern over danger of its extension.

July 20

Security Council adopts resolution 598 (1987) which, a year later, becomes the framework for reaching cease-fire agreement of 8 August 1988.

August 14

Iraq officially informs Secretary-General that it welcomes resolution 598 and is ready to cooperate with him and Security Council in its implementation.

September 11-14

Visit of Secretary-General to Tehran and Baghdad during which he discusses with officials of both countries possibilities for the implementation of resolution 598. The outline implementation plan is presented to both parties.

September 22

Secretary-General meets with President Khamenei of Iran to discuss certain points of resolution 598. Other meetings were held the same day between the Secretary-General and/or his staff and Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani.

Septmeber 26

Secretary-General's working lunch with Foreign Ministers of five Permanent Members of Security Council: they express support for his outline implementation plan.

September 28

Secretary-General's meets with Foreign Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, in New York.

September 29

Secretary-General meets with Director-General for International Organizations of the Foreign Ministry of Iran. Jaafar Mahallati, in New York.

October 9

Secretary-General meets with permanent members of Security Council to discuss Council strategy regarding resolution 598.

October 15

Secretary-General submits his implementation plan to Foreign Ministers of Iran and Iraq.

November 6

Secretary-General meets with the five permanent members of the Security Council to discuss the replies he has received from Iran in response to his letter of 15 October to both governments.

December 2-3

Secretary-General meets in New York with Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani.

December 8-9

Secretary-General meets in New York with Iraqi delegation led by Tariq Aziz.

December 10

Secretary-General reports to Security Council on his meetings with Iranian and Iraqi delegations on implementation of resolution 598. He says that a fresh impulse is needed from the Council.

December 24

Following consulations of the Security Council, its President reaffirms the commitment of Council members to resolution 598 as a whole as "the only basis for a comprechenisve, just, honourable and desirable settlement of the conflict".

1988

January 4-5

Secretary-General meets with Permanent Representatives of Iran and Iraq. He informs both parties that he feels that a new round of consultations cannot be undertaken unless there are clear assurances from both sides that such consultations would lead to real progress.

Jannuary 19-28

Secretary-General meets repeatedly with Acting Permanent Representative of Iran and with the Permanent Representative of Iraq concerning implementation of resolution 598.

January 29 and February 1

Secretary-General makes statements at informal consultations of the Security Council on his efforts to end the conflict between Iran and Iraq, and informs the Council that he intends to continue his contacts with both parties.

February 4-25

Secretary-General meets with representatives of both countries concerning implementation of resolution 598.



March 1-15

Secretary-General meets five times with the Acting Permanent Representative of Iran and twice with the Permanent Representative of Iraq.

March 16

Security Council meets to discuss Iran-Iraq conflict; expresses support for the Secretary General's efforts to implement resolution 598 and his intention to invite both governments to send special emissaries to New York to hold consultations.

March 18

Secretary-General addresses letters to the presidens of Iran and Iraq inviting them to send emissaries to hold consulations with him on implementation of resolution 598.

Secretary-General briefs Security Council members on his invitation to the Presidents of Iran and Iraq.

March 21

Iran requests dispatch of mission to investigate alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

March 22

Secretary-General makes a statement in Security Council regarding his invitations from Iran and Iraq to send special emissaries for a new round of consultations to end the war. He appeals to both parties to stop attacks on civilian areas and to desist from creating further obstacles to the implementation of resolution 598.

March 24

Iran again requests dispatch of mission to investigate alleged use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

March 25

Secretary-General holds two meetings with Iranian Acting Permanent Repressentative. Mr. Mahallati. He informs him that a mission will be arriving in Tehran on March 28 to examine victims of alleged chemical weapons attacks.

March 27

United Nations experts depart for Tehran to investigate the use of chemical weapons. The team visited Iran (March 28-31) and Baghdad (April 8-11).

March 28

Iraq requests Secretary-General to dispatch mission to investigate the situation of 7,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran.

United Nations experts examine chemical warfare victims in Tehran hospitals.

Secretary-General issues statement condemning use of chemical weapons.

April 4

Iraq requests Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to Baghdad to examine victims of alleged Iranian use of chemical weapons.

April 6-7

Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to Baghdad to examine victims of alleged Iranian use of chemical weapons.

April 6-7

Secretary-General holds meetings in New York with Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran, Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani.

(Contd on Pg. 7)

(Contd from Pg. 6)

CHRONOLOGY ...

April 8

Security Council meets to discuss status of Iran's and Iraq's positions on resolution 598.

April 11-12

Secretary-General meets in New York with Senior Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq,Mr. Wissam Al-Zahawie.

April 13

Secretary-General meets with the five permanent members of the Security Council to brief them on his recent talks on the Iran-Iraq conflict with the representatives of both sides. The full Council is briefed by the Secretary-General in the afternoon.

April 25

Secretary-General transmits to Security Council "report of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq".

May 9

Security Council adopts resolution 612 (1988) stating its dismay at the Mission's conclusions that chemical weapons continue to be used in the conflict on an even more intensive scale than before.

May 19 and June 16

Iran requests Secretary-General to dispatch another mission to investigate the use of chemical weapons by Iraq.

July 1-4

United Nations experts in Tehran investigate use of chemical weapons.

July 2

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addresses letter to Secretary-General regarding situation of prisoners of war.

July 3

Iranian commercial airliner is shot down by "USS Vincennes" in the Persian Gulf.

July 4

Iraq requests United Nations and Iternational Committee of the Red Cross to investigate the fate of Iraqi prisoners of war in Iran.

July 5

Iran calls for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the downing of Iranian airliner.

In a press conference in Geneva, the Secretary-General said that he hoped to send in the near future a mission to investigate the situation of prisoners of war in Iran and Iraq.

Iraq requests Secretary-General to dispatch a mission to Baghdad to investigate alleged use of chemical weapons by Iran.

July 9

Team of experts departs Geneva for Baghdad, spending July 10 through 11 investigating alleged use of chemical weapons by Iran.

July 11

Iran expresses readiness to receive mission dispatched to investigate situation of prisoners of war.

July 14

Security council meets to discuss downing of Iranian commercial airliner.

July 17

Iran informs the Secretary-General of its formal acceptance of resolution 598 (1987).

July 18

In a letter to the Secretary-General, Iraq defines its position on resolution 598 as total acceptance.

July 20

Security Council resolution 616 (1988) expresses deep distress at downing of Iranian civil aircraft, stresses need for rapid implementation of resolution 598 (1987), reaffirms its support for the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement that resolution and commits itself to working with him in the development of his implementation plan.

July 20

Secretary-General transmits to Security Council "Report of the Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq".

Secretary-General dispatches technical team to Iran and Iraq in connection with implementing a cease-fire between the two countries.

July 21

Secretary-General dispatches mission to Iran and Iraq to investigate the situation of the prisoners of war.

July 22

Secretary-General informs representative of Iran and Iraq that he would like to receive the foreign ministers to enter into intensive discussion with him on different aspects of his implementation plan of Security Council resolution 598.

August 6

Iraq declares readiness for a cease-fire.

August 10

First elements of UNIIMOG advance parties arrive in Iran and Iraq.

August 12

General Slavko Jovic (Yugoslavia) is appointed as Chief Military Observer of UNIIMOG.

August 19

"Report of the Mission dispatched by the Secretary-General to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the conflict between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq" is submitted to the Security Council.

August 20

The cease-fire takes effect.

August 26

Security Council adopts resolution 620 (1988), recalling it resolution 612 (1988), condemning the use of chemical weapons and encouraging the Secretary-General to carry out promptly investigations in response to allegations brought to his attention by any Member State.

September 1

Secretary-General names Jan K. Eliasson, the Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations, as his Personal Representative on issues pertaining to the implementation of Security Council resolution 598 (1987).

The Islamic Republic of Iran provided sufficient evidences to the world bodies substantiating that Iraq had deployed chemical weapons on several occasions in the course of its aggression against Iran.

(Contd from Pg. 4)

A REPORT .....

nonetheless declared that they would closely investigate Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons.

The Spokesman for the French cabinet, Max Gallo condemning use of chemical weapons, called for signing an international agreement banning the use of chemical warfare. Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary of Britain expressed support of his government for delegating an investigation committee to probe the matter.

The enormity of crimes committed by the Iraqi regime this time reached an extent that Javier Perez De Cuellar, the UN Secretary General strongly condemning the use of chemical weapons, delegated a four-member committee which arrived in Iran on March 13, 1984 in order to investigate the use of chemical weapons.

The commission submitted a 28-page report of its finding to U.N. Secretary General on March 21, 1984. The report confirming the use of chemical weapons in the Iraqi imposed war against Iran, has stated that on the basis of the conducted tests and analyses the toxic agents released by the weapons of delivery have been mustard gas, commonly called "tabun".

The U.N. Secretary General appending to the delegation report an introduction in which he deplored use of chemical weapons against Iran, submitted the report to the Security, in a statement read by Chairman of the Security Council severely condemned employment of chemical weapons against Iran.

The Iraqi regime wages a chemical warfare in the face of the fact that it is one of the 120 signatories of the Geneva Protocol which outlaws chemical, biological and other types of noxious and asphyxiating weapons.

Geneva Protocol of 1925 which was later reaffirmed by the United Nations Statement B (212162 expressly bans employment of the chemical weapons. The following is the text of the Protocol.

Geneva Protocol of June 17, 1925

"The undersigned Plenipotentiaries, in the name of their respective Governments:

Whereas the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gasses, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices, has been justly condemned by the general opinion of the civilized world: and Whereas the prohibition of such use has been declared in Treaties to which the majority of powers of the world are parties: and

To the end that his prohibition shall be universally accepted as a part of international law binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations;

Declare:

That the High Contracting parties, so far as they are not already Parties to Treaties prohibition to the use of bacteriological methods of warfare and agree to be bound as between themselves according to terms of this declaration.

The High Contracting Parties will exert every effort to induce other State to accede to the present Protocol Such accession will be notified to the Government of the French Republic, and by the latter to all signatory and acceding powers, and will take effect on the date of the notification by the Government of the French Republic.

The present Protocol, of which the French and English texts are both authentic, shall be ratified as soon as possible It shall bear today's date.

The ratifications of the present Protocol shall be addressed to the Government of the French Republic which will at once notify the deposit of such ratification to each of the signatory and acceding Powers.

The instruments of ratification of the accession to the present Protocol will remain deposited in the archives of the government of the French Republic.

The present Protocol will come into force for each signatory Power as from the date of deposit of its ratification, and. from that moment, each Power will be bound as regards other powers which have already deposited their ratifications."

The Iraqi chemical attacks were so abhorrent and alarming that humanitarian people in many countries such as Sweden. England, United States and Germany staged demonstrations condemning the Iraqi Regime's inhuman conduct. Also the mass media airing the news of the Iraq's employment of chemical weapons, in most of the countries, demounted the Iraqi criminal act, to an extent that not the slightest doubt was left on people's mind regarding the use of chemical weapons against Iran by the Iraqi forces.

(Contd from Pg. 5)

MILITARY .....

14. On January 24, 1982, the Islamic Republic News Agency (former PARS News Agency), quoting foreign report, reported that about 70 Soviet tanks along with Frog-7 missiles had been delivered to the Iraqis via Kuwait and that at the moment the Soviets were loading MiG-25 spare parts for Soviet technicians in Iraq so that they could assemble them at Iraqi bases.

It can be realized from these reports that the ex-Soviet Union has not acted neutrally in the imposed war, and when we remember the statement of Sadun Hammadi that 'Iraqo-Soviet relations are just as they were during the pre-war era', we realize its correctness.

The *Washington Post*, with regard to the ignoring of the principle of neutrality by the Soviets, wrote: "It is possible that the main reason of Moscow in reviving its relations with Baghdad is to have access to Iraqi oil for its allies in East Europe. Another factor might be the hope of preserving its leading role in Iraq. The Soviet Union followed this policy several years ago regarding two warring neighbors in the Horn of Africa, and by this it was able to gain a new ally (Ethiopia) at the cost of a former one (Somalia)."

This paper in another part of its political analysis added: "Soviet policy analysts in Baghdad and Washington believe that after Moscow was unable to establish close links with the Iranian government under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini, I decided at the end of the year 1980 to revive its relations with Baghdad."

EGYPT

Egypt had actively engaged in supplying Iraq with munition and spare parts it needed to sustain the war. Some of the grenades captured by the Iranians bore the following inscription "Al-Qunbalah al-Misryah" which means "Egyptian explosive". Egyptian authorities had publicly confirmed that an Iraqi delegation had indeed visited Egypt in the early days of the war in order to choose the armor and the munition it needed. The Egyptian government had gone even further by contributing volunteer Egyptian military men to the Iraqi war effort.

On March 29, 1981, Egypt decided to send 800 tons of its Soviet-made weapons to Iraq. These included rockets, artillery pieces, spare parts and munitions. On August 10, 1981, Egyptian defense industries in Helwan signed a contract with Iraq for supplying spare parts and light weaponries. More than 50,000 Egyptian drivers and mechanics were also contacted to work in Iraq. Egyptian pilots also fly most of the Iraqi war planes. In order to save face in case of unforeseen circumstances all these pilots had been issued with Iraqi ID cards.

There are other reports indicting that Egypt had sent T-62 tanks to Iraq.

BRAZIL

After Israel, Brazil was the second largest third world arms producer. Iraqi transports were constantly airlifting artillery pieces, AFV's and munition from air bases in Brazil. On June 19, 1981, Iraq purchased 2000 armored fighting vehicles from this country. Brazil had also provided Iraq with Cascaval light tanks.

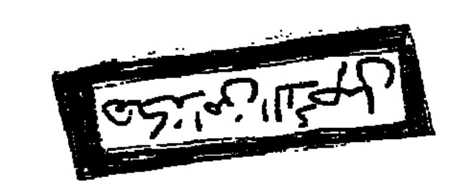
UNITED STATES

Despite the United States government denials, there had been circumstantial evidences linking it to the shipment of war chemicals, to be used against the Iranian troops.

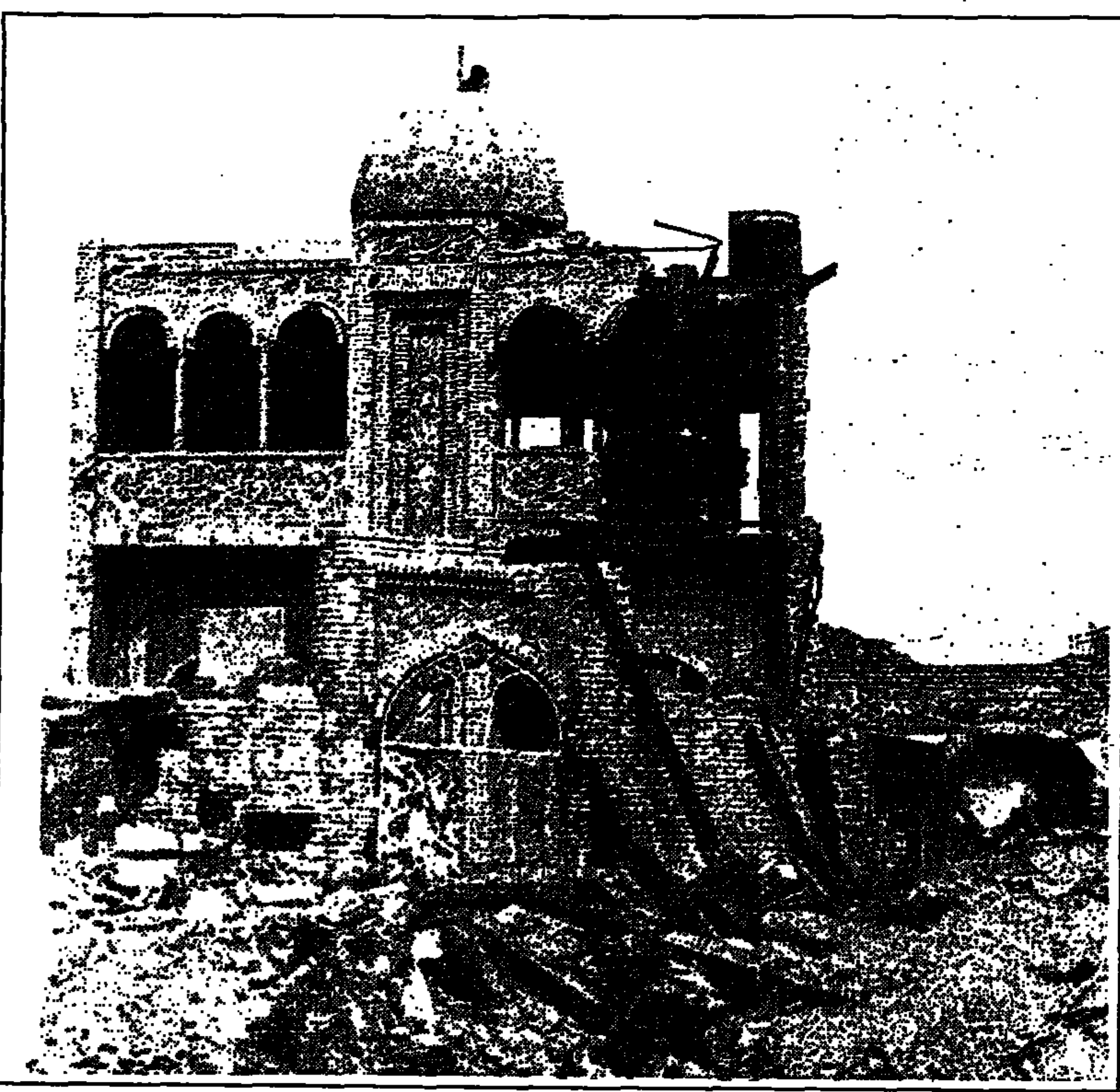
According to some documents — obtained from a USAF base in Spain — at least 200 kilograms of mustard gas arrived at this base via California on January 21, 1984. It was shipped to Baghdad the next day by an Iraqi military transport.

Sources close to the Supreme Defense Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran had told that the mustard gas sold to Iraq was transferred from California to Torrejoon base in Spain by two special MAC (Military Airlift Command) flights and were sent to Baghdad via Larisa route at 05:30 hours next day.

The mustard gas had been delivered in passive, solid form; to be later processed into active, liquid form in a West German supplied chemical factory in Iraq. It should be noted that this shipment was made before the Khaibar operation that was carried out by the Iranian Armed Forces on February 1984.



SAVAGE, CRUEL, CALLOUS



(Tehran Times Service)

PART 2

Every time that civilians were massacred by the indiscriminate attacks of this dying beast, people poured into the streets, in their thousands, shouting loud and clear "war till final victory" repeatedly enough to make even Saddam fully understand what it meant. But it was only Iraqi Ba'athist mentality which was capable of continuing the massacre regardless, whether it be the massacre of the Iranian Muslims or the Muslims of Iraq who have had enough of living under the ominous shadow cast over their Muslim country by the Ba'athist infidels.



We are living in a six world, a world in which all the conceivable means and tools are monopolized by the big powers and satanic forces to further their evil designs in the world. The world mass media is one such tool almost exclusively used for such purposes. During the course of a bloody war which had lasted months, there had never been any attempts made by the world mass media to relay the slightest indication of the hardship which the civilian population of Iran had suffered at the hands of the ruthless invading forces. Indeed, all efforts had been made to suppress almost totally any report which may awaken the consciousness of the world to the plight of the defenceless civilians.

The United Nations is another international institute whose support was coming more and more to light for mass-murderers like Saddam whose thirst for innocent blood can not be quenched by ordinary means.

The United Nations, this disastrously misnamed institution, and all the governments comprising it, need little reminding about the atrocities committed by Saddam. It was the Security Council of the United Nations itself which, admittedly under pressure from Iran, dispatched a fact-finding mission to both Iran and Iraq to see the state of affairs for themselves.

The mission saw for itself, and its report was indicative of the fact that, vast areas of the border areas of Iran, under Iraqi occupation for more than a year, had been subject to unimaginable crimes of unbelievable magnitude. They witnessed with their own eyes that Khorramshahr, Hoveizeh and Qasr Shirin, prosperous and thriving cities before the war, had been, among many other towns and cities completely razed to the ground. They saw for themselves that the invading forces had not even shown mercy to perfectly harmless trees, let alone the inhabitants of those cities who may actually have dared to voice their protest against the occupation and destruction of their beloved hometowns.

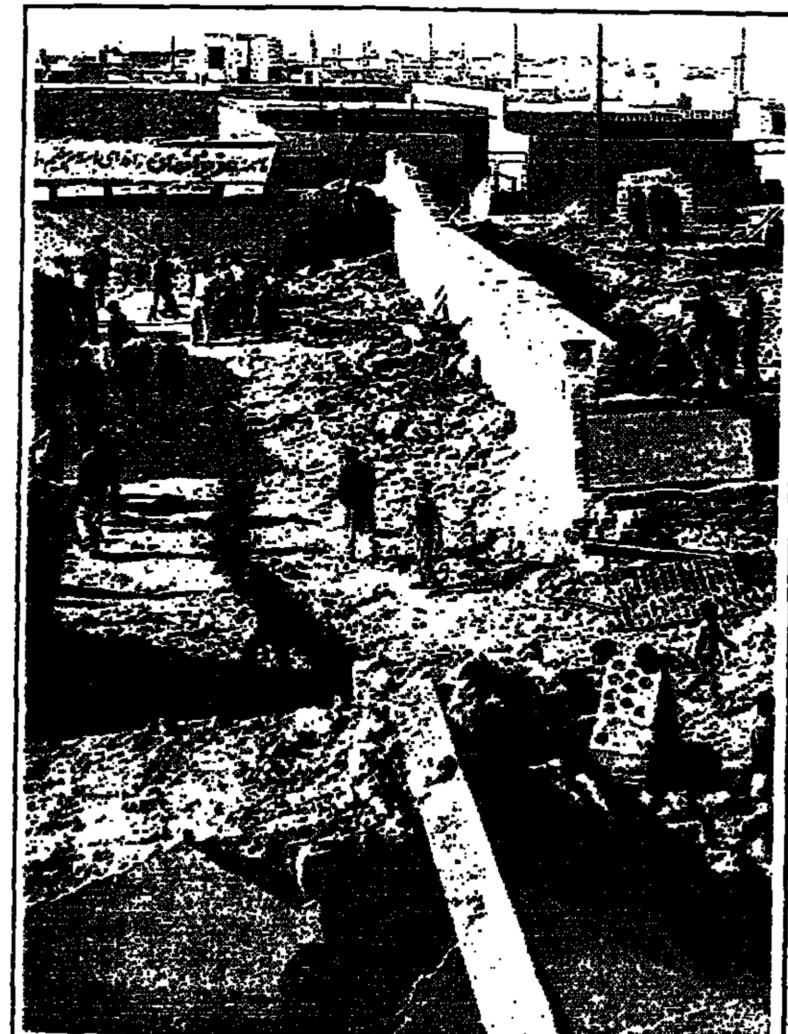
Presumably those members of the United Nations who actually took the trouble to read the U.N. report, have enough sense to realize that destruction of towns and cities must inevitably mean the massacre of the inhabitants of those places as well. Perhaps the "respected" members of the U.N. also realized that such acts could only be classified as war crimes and perhaps the "honorable" members also realize that the war criminal, the notorious Saddam, must be tried and accordingly punished.

We painfully realized that this was all no more than wishful thinking on our part. In the world today, criminals are so free to roam around that Saddam, far from having any fear or shame, actually has the impudence to write to the United Nations stating "Iraq's legal right to attack Iranian residential areas" and the right to massacre civilians in cold blood. One is forced to wonder why the UN had agreed to send the fact-finding mission to the two countries in any case. Perhaps the UN had itself fallen victim to the conspiracy of silence, in which it was itself a party, and did not realize the extent of damage and hardship sustained by Iran and, on the other hand, the total immunity of the Iraqi civilian population from attack by the Muslim combatants.

Indeed, the unprecedented and humane stance which the Islamic Republic has adopted and the Islamic principles it had consistently and rigidly adhered to, as regards the civilian population of Iraq, is another subject which has never been the subject of analysis or even attention by the mass media, the United Nations, Amnesty International, or anybody else for that matter: for the obvious reasons one might say.

All points in time during the course of the imposed war, and particularly after the liberation of much of the occupied territories in the spring of 1982, large sections of Iraqi civilian areas have been within the range of the Iranian artillery fire. The city of Basra Iraq's second largest city, was well within the range, being only 30 km away from the border. By firing flares at night and illuminating the city, instead of using real shells, the Army of Islam had from time to time reminded the population of Basra of this very fact.

Iranian fire was capable of turning entire Basra into rubble in a matter of days if not hours, leaving more than one million





people, a tenth of the population of Iraq, homeless and thus greatly adding to the burden of the artificially sustained and near collapse economy of the crumbling Ba'athist regime. In fact, the visit of the United Nation's fact-finding mission to Basra had to be canceled by the Ba'athist regime for the lack of evidence against Iran.

The forces of Islam did not, and indeed they had clear instructions from Imam Khomeini not to, fire "even a single shot" on the civilian quarters in Iraq. The late Imam had said:

"We will never attack the Iraqi cities because we believe the people to be innocent. But we will destroy the Iraqi criminal forces in the battlefront."

The unbelievably different attitudes adopted by the two armies, bring into sharp focus the differences between Ba'athism and Islam. Truly, could Ba'athism, as a so-called ideology, be anything other than modern version of Kufr (infidelity) which inflicted so much damage on Islam in its early days? Are we not justified to expect and end to the misguided claim that this was a war between brothers?

The atrocities of the Ba'athist regime of Iraq against the Muslims of Iran can only be well and truly compared to those committed by the Zionist regime in Lebanon. The nature and extent of the atrocities of the Ba'athist regime against the civilian population was unbelievable but did not let it overshadow the far greater crimes of the Zionist Saddam in the battle fronts against the Muslim defenders whose only crime has been their passion for Islam and their determination to save their Islamic land from aggression.

Sons had lost fathers and fathers had lost sons, sometimes as many as seven or more. There were children whose eyes had been glued to the entrance doors of their houses for the return of their fathers, their mothers, their brothers, their sisters, their families, while there were families of which not a single member, not even a child, had survived to cherish a false and dying hope in his or her little heart.

Each time another town was bombarded killing innocent people and each time a Muslim combatant wallowed in his innocent blooding the battlefield.

(Concluded)